



THE USBORNE TIME TRAVELLER

PHARAOHS & PYRAMIDS



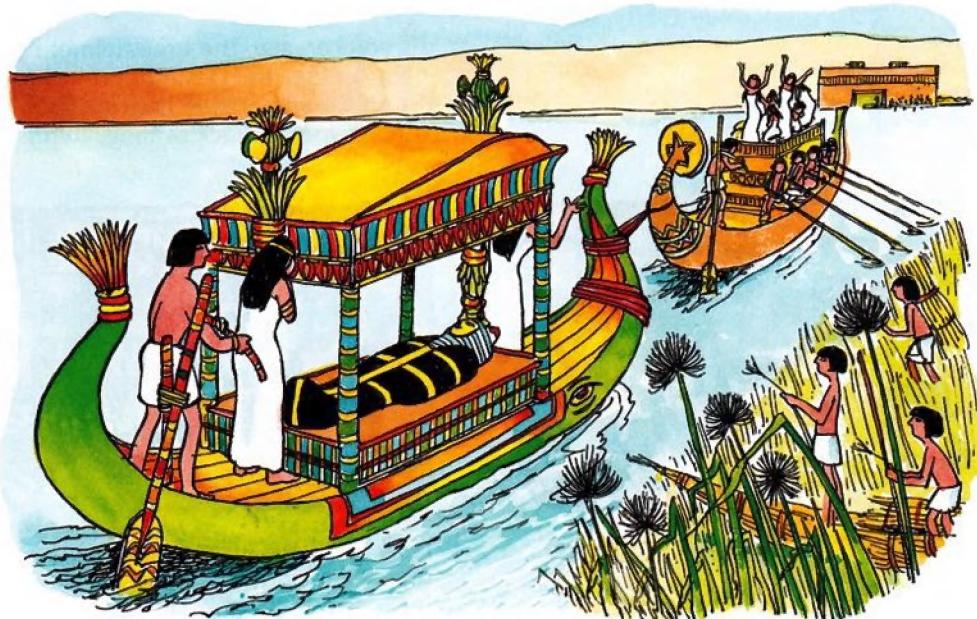
PHARAOHS & PYRAMIDS

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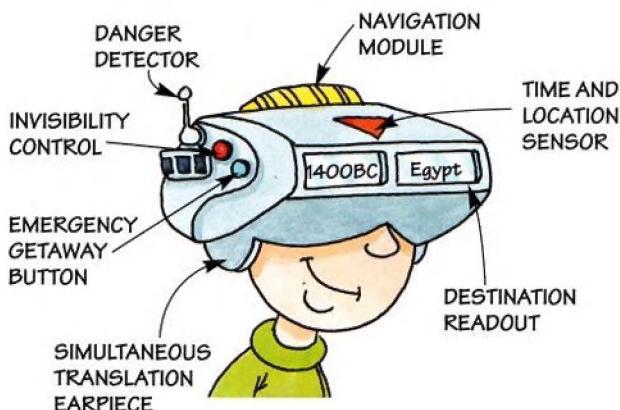
GOING BACK IN TIME

Time travel is easy when you have a magic helmet. All you have to do is put it on, press the right buttons, and off you go. In just a few seconds you can zoom all the way back to visit Egypt in ancient times.

The people who lived there were among the first to develop writing, and to build huge monuments out of stone. Some of these things still survive today, and you can see them preserved in museums.

But to find out what life was really like in Ancient Egypt, and to meet people who lived there, you will need to travel back 3,400 years, to a time 1,400 years before Jesus was born. This date is written as 1400BC.

1 THE TIME HELMET



3 GO!

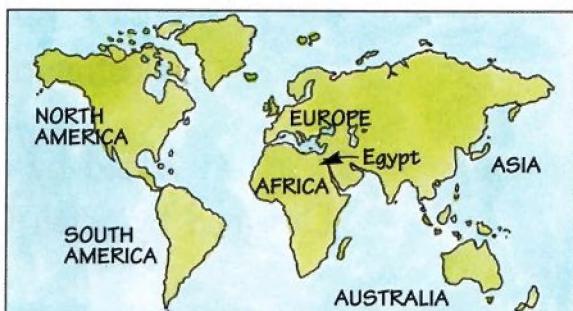


This is the year 1900 - about 100 years ago. Things are rather different. Not everyone has electricity, so there are gas lamps and a fire. All the women wear skirts.

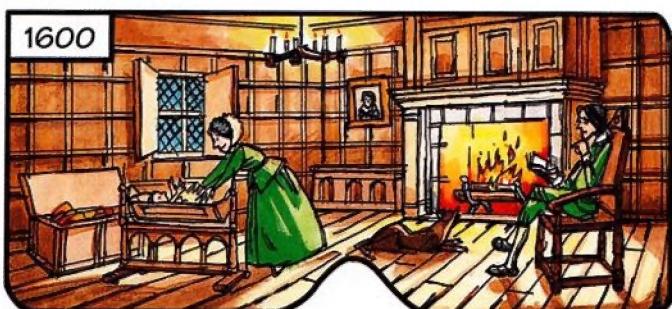


You have come a long way now - about 800 years. There is no glass in the windows, and no chimney for the fire: it's really rather dark, smoky and cold.

2 PICK A DESTINATION



As you can see, the time helmet has lots of useful gadgets. Set the Destination Readout to 'Egypt, 1400BC', and enable the Navigation Module. You're off! As you go back in time, things begin to change...



Now you have jumped back three centuries. Candles give some light, but they are very expensive. Even glass is a luxury - notice how small the windows are.

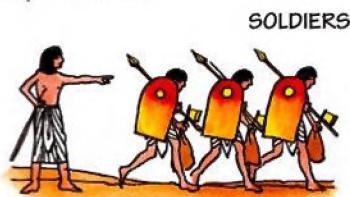


You are now passing ancient Rome in the year 100, nearly 2,000 years ago. But you still have almost as far to go again. Next stop, ancient Egypt!

THE PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET

All the Egyptians you will meet in this book live within a few miles of a river called the Nile. Egypt is sunny and warm, so clothes are light and simple.

Nakht is a wealthy landowner. He lives with his family in a big house a few miles up the Nile from the city of Memphis. He often has to go to the city on business. This is because, like his father before him, he is a scribe at a temple there. He is in charge of all the temple's lands.



Soldiers lead hard and dangerous lives. But a few successful ones may become rich and famous generals.



There are two kinds of servants. Some are free to leave their masters if they want to look for another job, but others are slaves. They are usually foreigners who were captured in wars with other countries.



Peasants work hard to grow enough food to live on. But they also have to pay part of their crop to the pharaoh's officials, as tax. There is normally enough food for everyone, but in bad years, the officials give out extra food from their stores.

The rich people have pleasant lives. They like to go hunting for sport, and they live on big estates, with lots of servants and slaves to work for them.



Mosi is the eldest son of Nakht and Tiy. He is 16. His father wanted him to train as a scribe, but he wants to be a soldier. Nakht has finally agreed, and has promised to introduce him to a general he knows.

Shery, the eldest daughter, is a lively girl of 13. Because she is a girl, she does not have to learn a trade. She learns what she needs to at home, as well as singing and dancing.

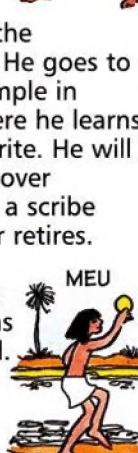


At 10, Hori is the youngest son. He goes to school in a temple in Memphis, where he learns to read and write. He will probably take over Nakht's job as a scribe after his father retires.

AMHOSE



The youngest daughter is named Meu, which means 'kitten'. She is 8 years old. She spends most of her time playing outside.



Most Egyptians are poor peasants who have to work hard to make a living. They farm the land or work on building sites.

Tiy has been married to Nakht for twenty years now. She is known as Mistress of the House because she takes care of it and all the children. All the furniture and household goods belong to her.



The pharaoh is the ruler of all Egypt. His subjects believe that he is a god in the body of a man, and think that he can do no wrong. He is so revered that people have to kneel down when they speak to him.



The Vizier is the pharaoh's chief helper. It is his job to see that the pharaoh's orders are carried out.



Priests work in the temples, looking after the gods. To keep themselves pure and clean, they bathe four times a day, shave their heads and dress in the finest linen.



Scribes earn a living by knowing how to read and write. Some work for the army, others for the pharaoh or in temples. They keep a record of taxes and property, and of history and ideas.

A TRIP TO ANCIENT EGYPT

You have been whisked back more than 3,300 years. Beneath you lie miles of sandy desert, through which runs the Nile river. It is long and wide and has green fields at its edges.



Without the Nile, no one would be able to live in Egypt. There is very little rain, but every year the river floods its banks. When the waters go down, they leave the land near the river moist and fertile. Crops grow well here.

The Egyptians call the river valley the Black Land, because of the fertile black mud the river leaves behind. Here they build their villages, towns and temples, and grow crops to eat and trade overseas.

The river broadens out in two places. In the area called the Delta, the river splits into many channels to reach the sea. The Faiyum is an oasis which is linked to the Nile. Lots of people live here because there is plenty of water for their animals and crops.

The desert all around is called the Red Land. Only wild animals and a few desert people live here. But the Egyptians dig for stone and metal in many different places. They also bury their dead in the desert on the west bank of the Nile. There are great monuments and tombs there, including the famous pyramids.

The Egyptians call the sea the Great Green. Their trading ships sail up the Mediterranean coast and down the Red Sea to the land of Punt on the African coast. But most Egyptians never leave their country. Travel is a slow and difficult business.



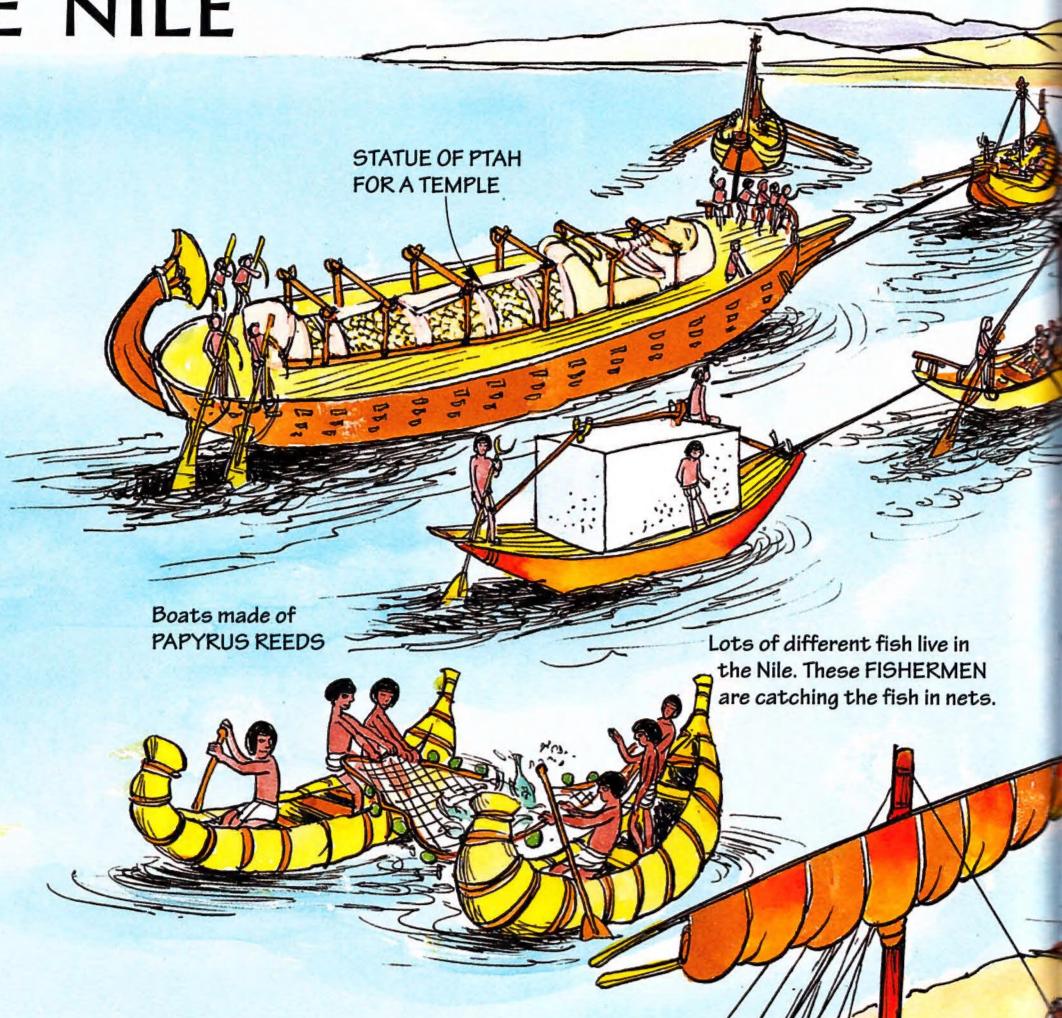
ALONG THE NILE

You have arrived in Egypt late in the year. The flooded waters of the Nile are going down. After three months of flood with little to do, the peasant farmers are busy again, sowing seed ready for next year's harvest.

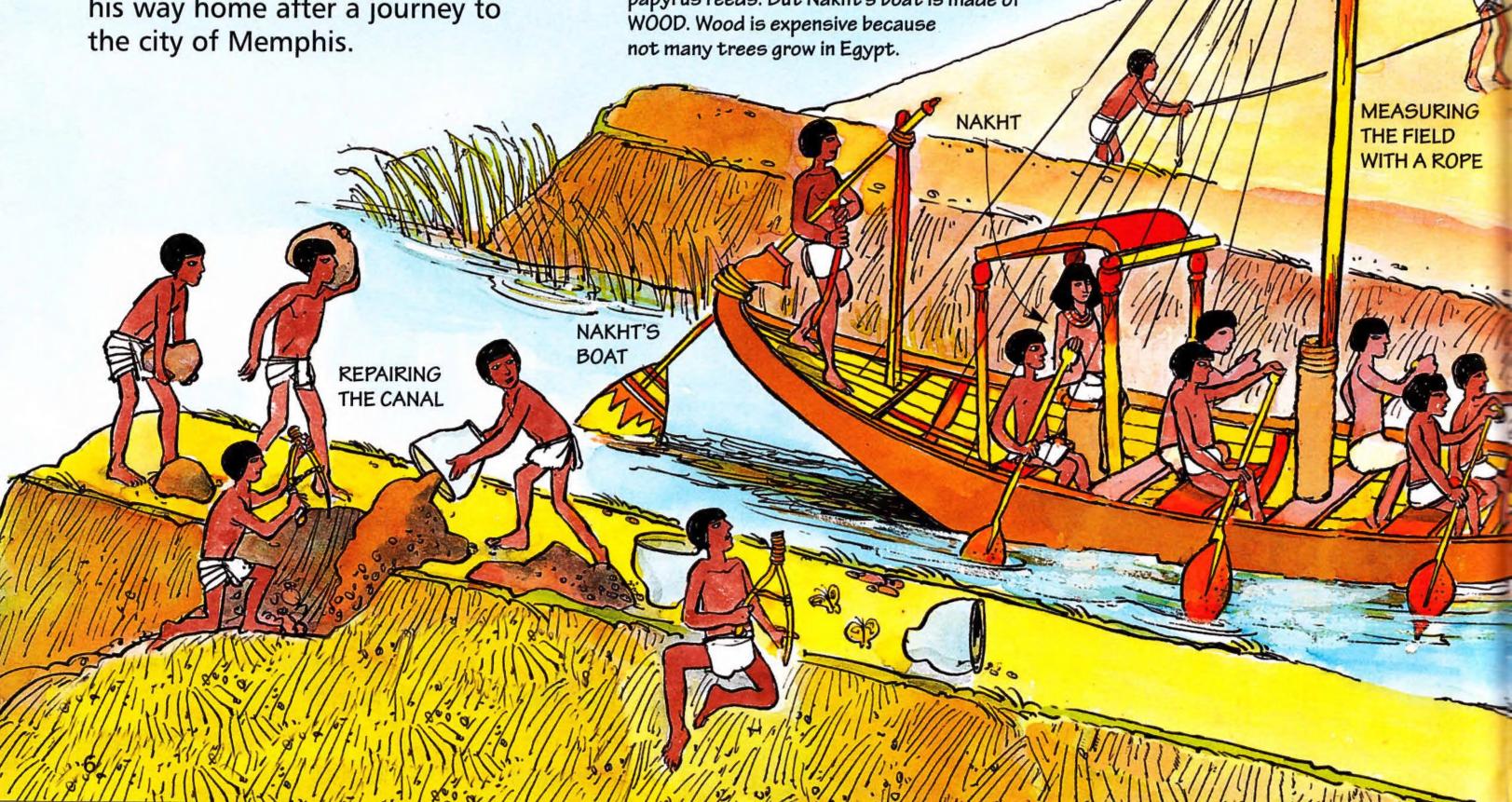
Another urgent job is to repair the canal banks. Canals are used for travel and to carry water to fields far from the Nile. There is very little rain in Egypt, so water can't be wasted. Large pools are built to store the floodwater, so it can be used throughout the year to water the fields.

The Nile itself is busy with traffic. It is Egypt's main highway. Heavy things like statues and stones for building are carried down the river in ships and barges.

People use the Nile for getting around too. Nakht's boat has just turned off the river. He is on his way home after a journey to the city of Memphis.



Lots of boats are made from bundles of papyrus reeds. But Nakht's boat is made of WOOD. Wood is expensive because not many trees grow in Egypt.



MEASURING
THE FIELD
WITH A ROPE

CATTLE GRAZING IN THE MARSHES

HIPPOS are pests because they ruin the crops. These hunters trap them with loops of rope and then kill them with spears.

These rich Egyptians are hunting BIRDS for sport. They take along CATS to help them scare the birds out of the reeds.

These OXEN are turning over the soft river mud, to get it ready for the new crops. The SOWER follows, scattering seed.



SOWER



BOUNDARY STONE

I swear as Amun lives and as the pharaoh lives that I have not moved the boundary stone!

TAX-GATHERERS measure the fields each year to work out how much tax should be paid. Farmers have to swear they haven't altered the boundaries of their fields.

POOL for collecting the floodwater

Children are taught to look out for deadly COBRAS and CROCODILES in the damp fields and marshes.

Look out!
Crocodile!

GASP!

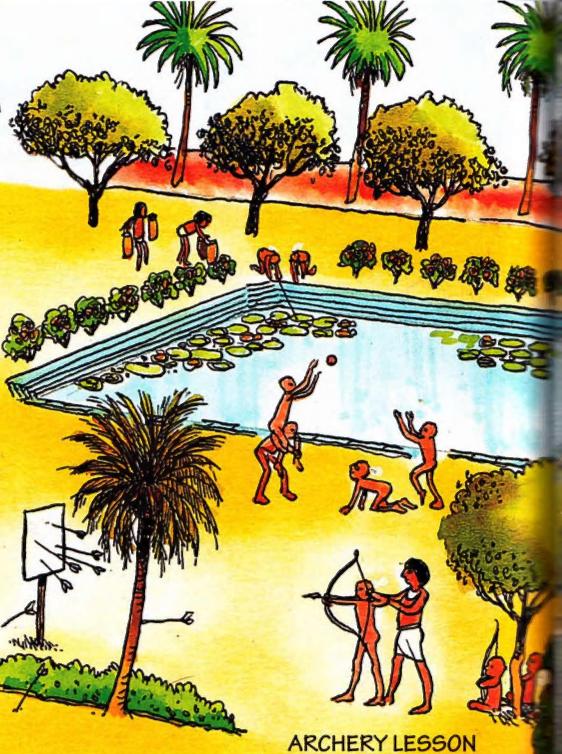
Run for your lives!

AT HOME WITH NAKHT

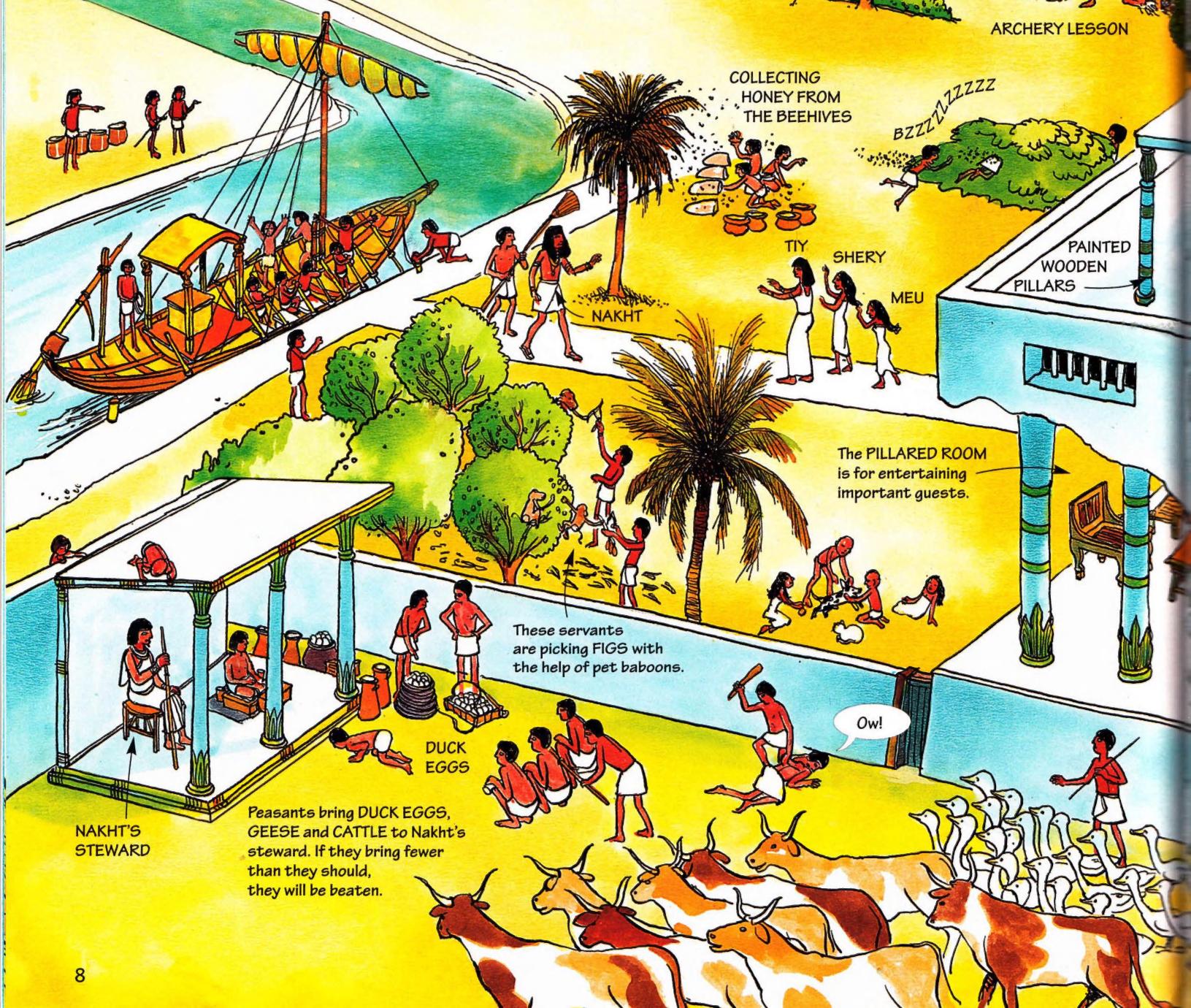
Nakht has arrived home. He lives with his wife, Tiy, and their family near the Nile. They have a large house and garden, a stableyard and some outbuildings where their servants live and work. Nakht owns a lot of land around his house. Peasants farm there, and in return they have to give Nakht some of the food they grow.

Nakht's house is built of bricks, like all Egyptian homes. These are simply mud mixed with sand or straw, and then left to dry rock-hard in the sun. Inside, the house keeps cool and shady.

Nakht's slaves and gardeners do the cooking and look after the house, the gardens and the animals. The steward helps Nakht look after his land and makes sure the peasants pay him what they owe.



ARCHERY LESSON



NAKHT'S STEWARD

Peasants bring DUCK EGGS, GEESE and CATTLE to Nakht's steward. If they bring fewer than they should, they will be beaten.

These servants are picking FIGS with the help of pet baboons.

Nakht's CHARIOT and HORSES, for when he goes hunting in the desert. Only rich Egyptians can afford these.



Young children keep cool by having most of their hair shaved off.

High windows let in air and light but not too much heat.

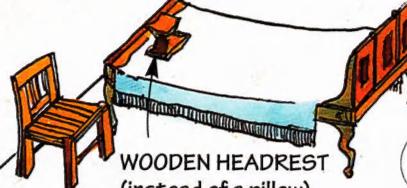
People spend lots of time on the ROOF to catch the cool breezes. In really hot weather they may sleep here too.

Your move.

Mosi and his cousin Amhose are playing a board game called SENET.

Because WOOD is rare in Egypt, wooden furniture like this is very expensive.

The BED has a wooden frame and leather straps for a base.



12 geese - it should be a real feast!

The house is whitewashed to keep it cool, and raised to keep out floodwater and snakes.

PLUCKING GEESE

HONK!
HONK!

Servants empty the TOILET BOWL into the canal.

RAZOR



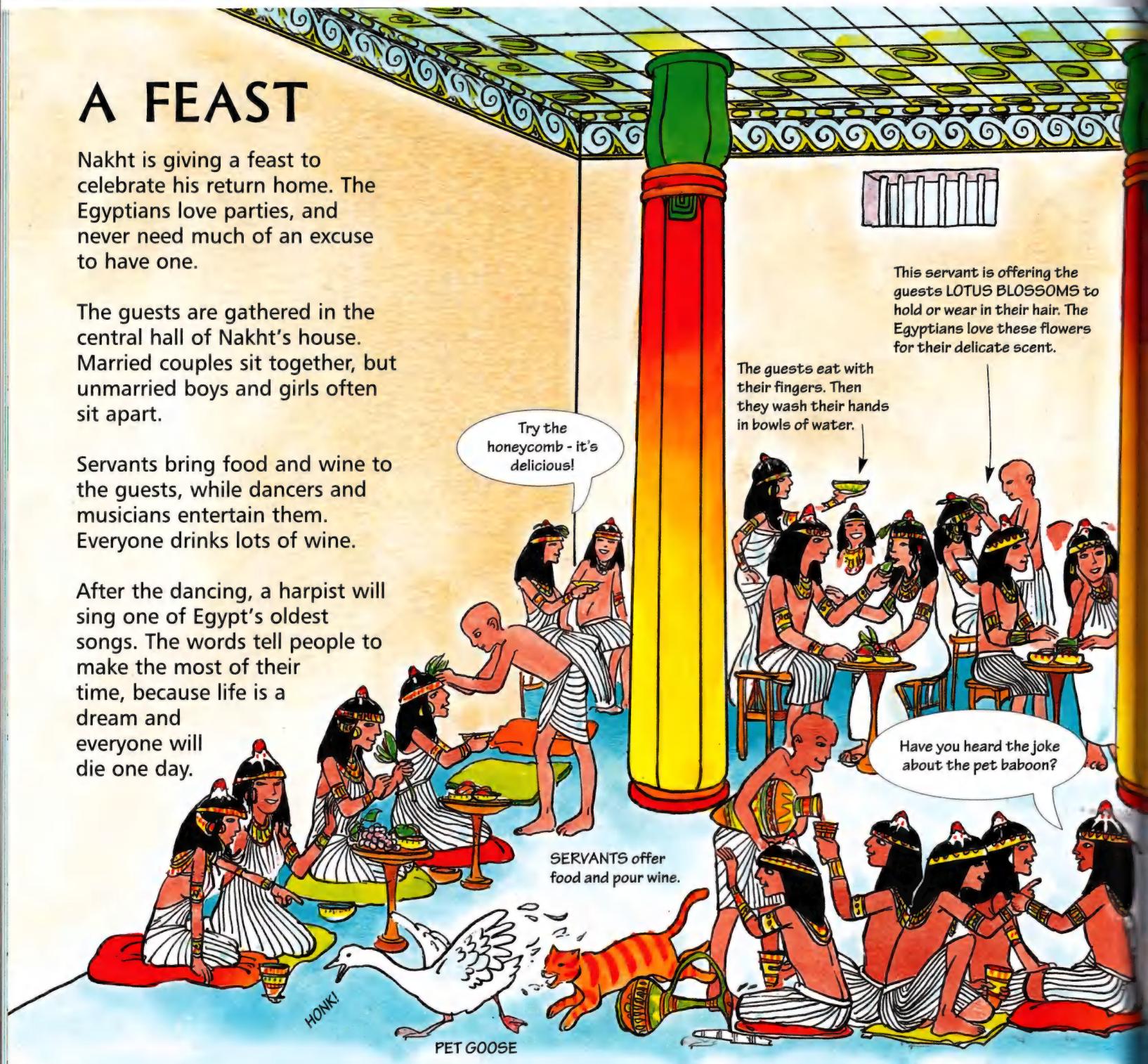
A FEAST

Nakht is giving a feast to celebrate his return home. The Egyptians love parties, and never need much of an excuse to have one.

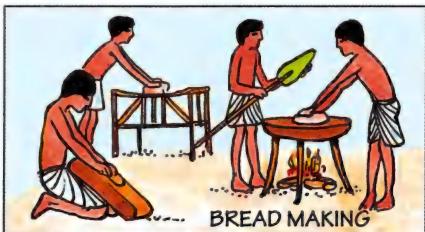
The guests are gathered in the central hall of Nakht's house. Married couples sit together, but unmarried boys and girls often sit apart.

Servants bring food and wine to the guests, while dancers and musicians entertain them. Everyone drinks lots of wine.

After the dancing, a harpist will sing one of Egypt's oldest songs. The words tell people to make the most of their time, because life is a dream and everyone will die one day.



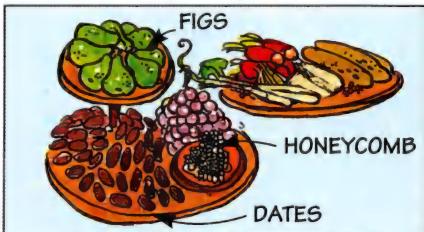
PREPARING FOOD



Nakht's servants are busy baking a variety of breads for the guests. They knead the dough and then bake the flat breads over a fire.



Ducks and geese make popular meat courses. They are roasted over an open fire. The cook fans the flames to keep them burning brightly.



Vegetables and fruit, including figs, dates, melons and grapes, are grown on Nakht's land. Honey is used to sweeten drinks and food.

SHERY GETS READY FOR THE FEAST



Holding her polished bronze mirror, Shery rims her eyes with a special black powder called kohl.



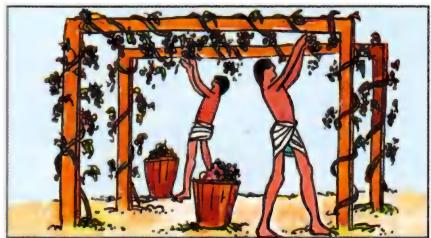
She grinds red clay up into a powder and rubs it on to her cheeks and the palms of her hands.



A servant helps Shery put on her wig. On top of it she places a special cone of perfumed oil.



MAKING WINE



Most Egyptians drink beer, but rich people are also fond of wine. Landowners like Nakht often grow grapes on trellises like these.



The grapes are taken to the press. While some workers trample them underfoot, others collect the juice that gushes out.



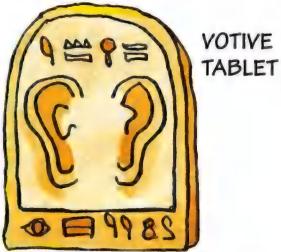
The juice is poured into pottery jars to ferment into wine. These are sealed with a cap of mud and leaves which dry in the sun.

VISITING A TEMPLE

This is the local temple, where Nakht works. It's rather like a small city. You can see workshops, a school, a library and storerooms. Outside its walls there is lots of farmland which belongs to the temple.

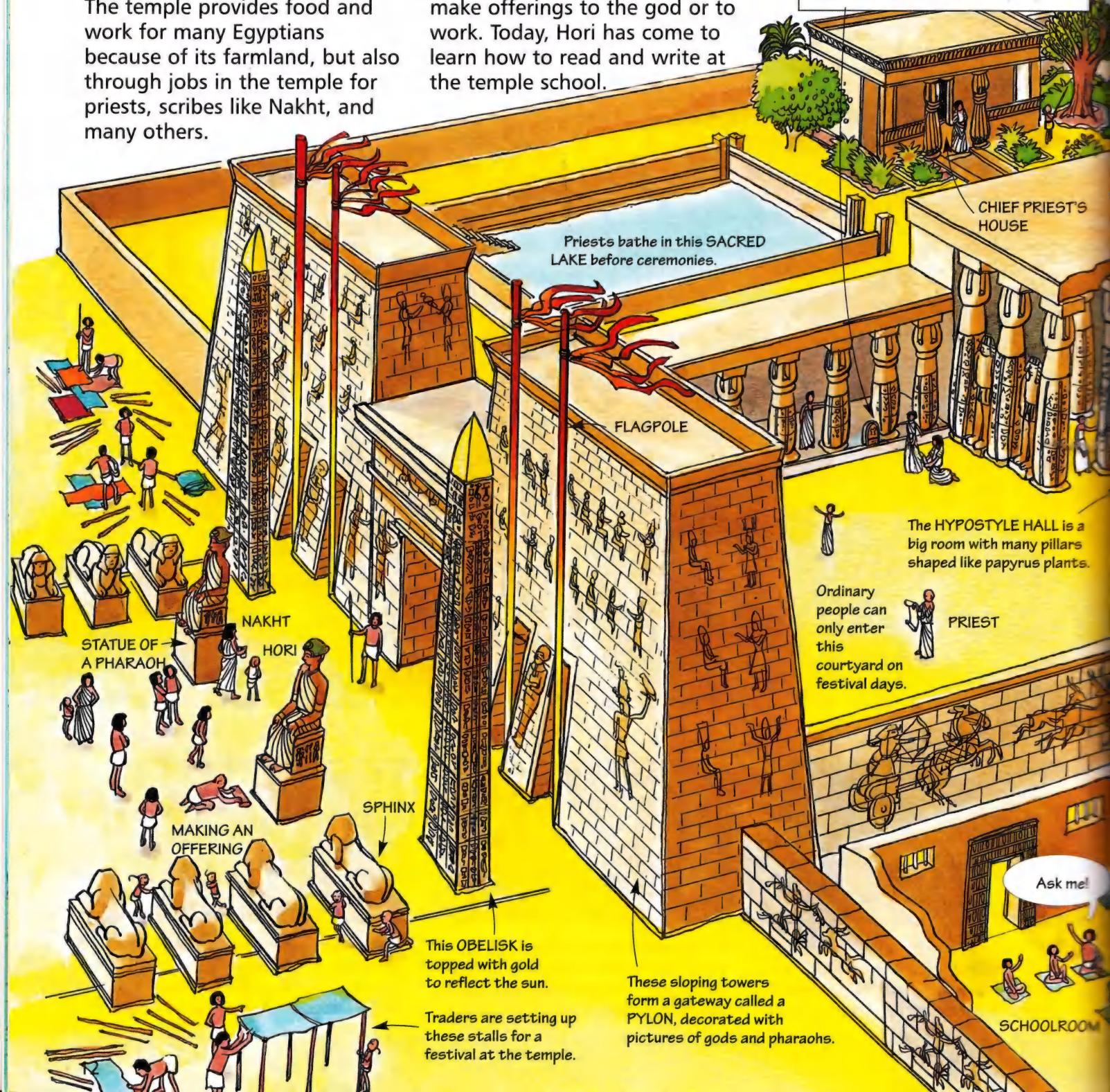
The temple provides food and work for many Egyptians because of its farmland, but also through jobs in the temple for priests, scribes like Nakht, and many others.

The most important part of a temple is a small room which only priests enter. This is the sanctuary where the Egyptians believe the god lives.



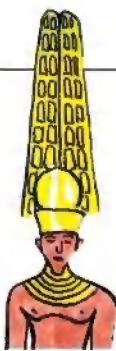
People buy votive tablets to leave at the temple. They have ears because people want the gods to listen to their prayers.

But ordinary people can go to other parts of the temple, to make offerings to the god or to work. Today, Hori has come to learn how to read and write at the temple school.



THE GODS OF EGYPT

Egyptians believe in many different gods. All Egyptians worship the great gods, like Amun. But each city has a god of its own, who lives in a local temple. Different gods look after different things and people. Here are three gods worshipped by all Egyptians.



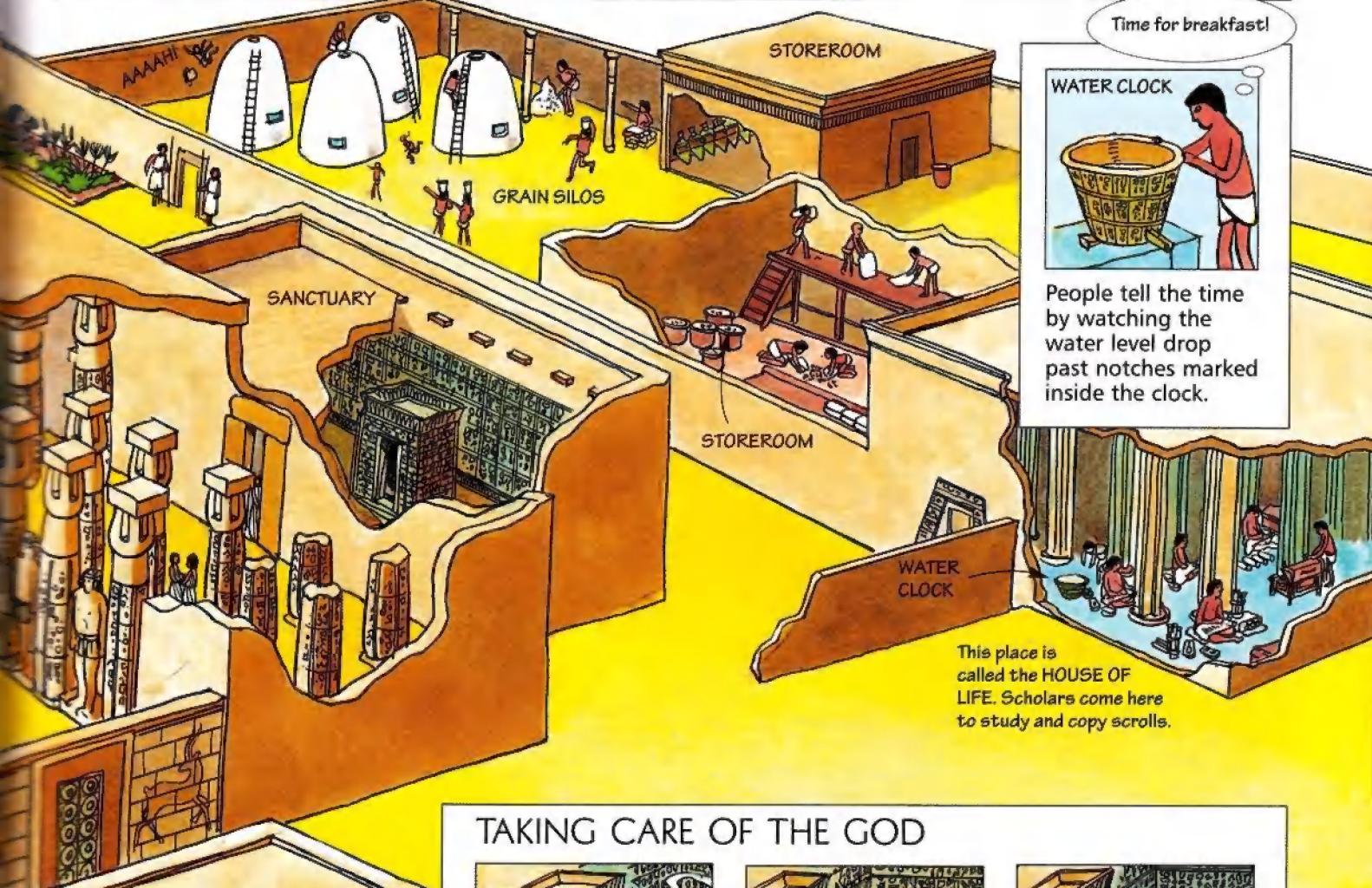
Amun of Thebes is the king of all the gods.



Ptah is the god of Memphis and also of craftsmen.



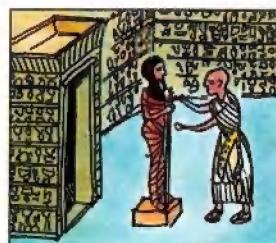
Bes is a dwarf god who brings luck and happiness at home.



TAKING CARE OF THE GOD



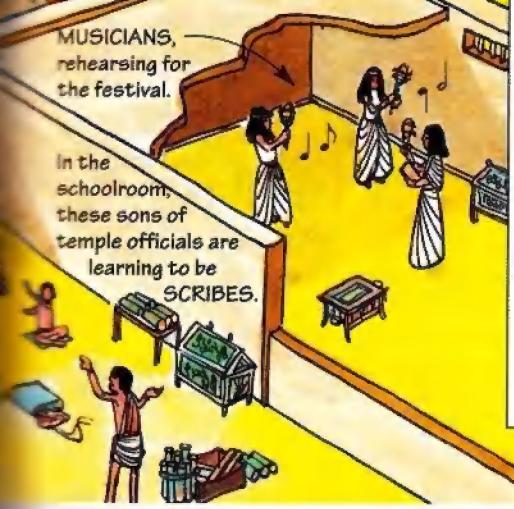
Each morning a priest, who has just washed and shaved, enters the sanctuary. It is his job to look after the god every day.



He takes the god's statue out of its shrine. He sprinkles water on it, changes its clothing and then offers it food and drink.



Then he puts it back in the shrine and leaves the doors open for the day. In the evening, as he leaves, he sweeps away his footprints.



MUSICIANS, rehearsing for the festival.

In the schoolroom, these sons of temple officials are learning to be SCRIBES.

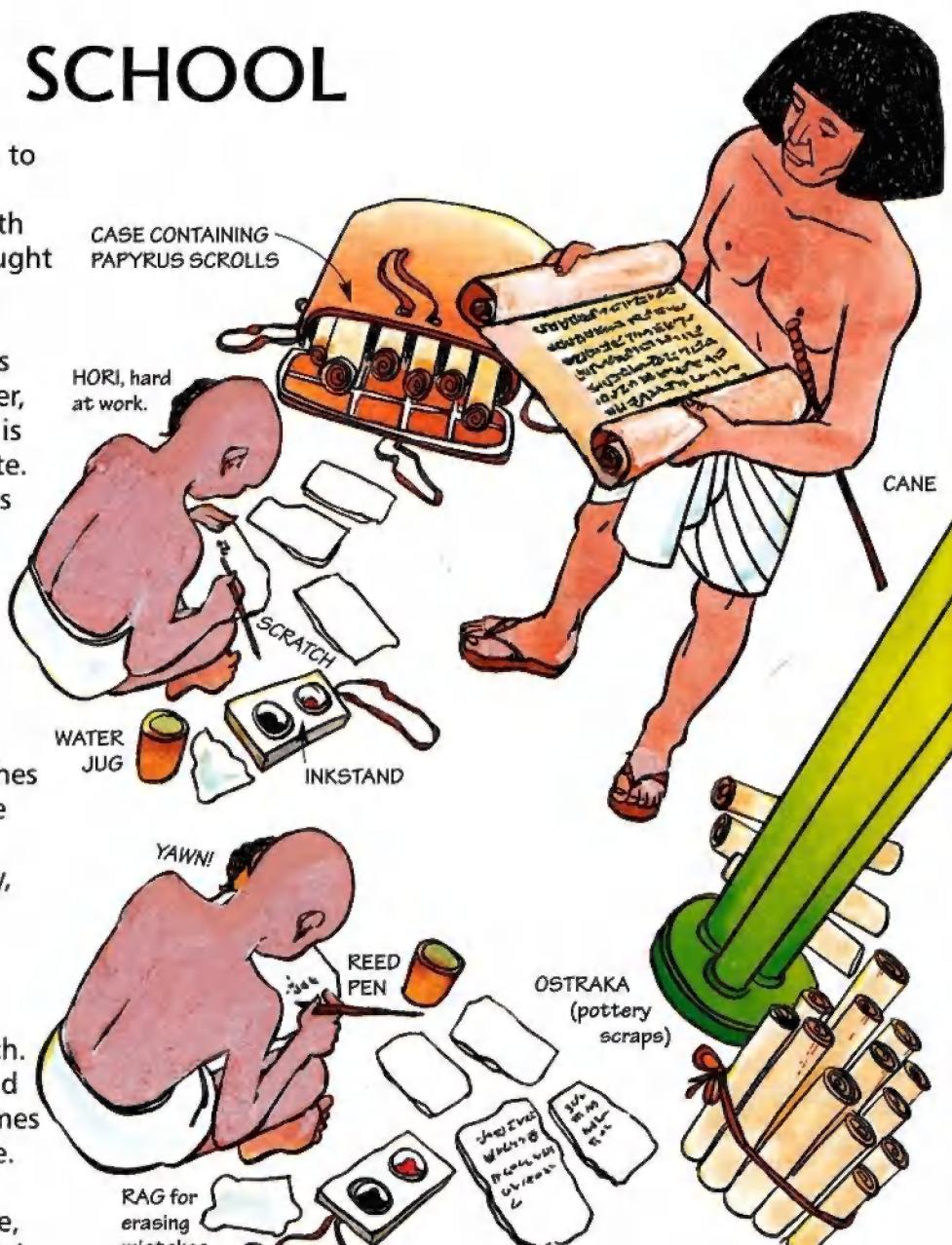
GOING TO SCHOOL

Most Egyptian children never go to school. As soon as they are old enough, the boys go to work with their fathers and the girls are taught how to run a home.

Hori goes to school because he is going to be a scribe like his father, Nakht. A scribe is someone who is specially trained to read and write. Scribes have many different kinds of jobs. Some work in temples writing down details of sacred learning. Some work for the pharaoh, writing letters or recording taxes.

Today, Hori and his friends are learning about writing. The brushes they use to draw the symbols are made from reeds. They write on pieces of broken stone or pottery, called ostraka, because papyrus paper is too expensive for beginners to use every day.

Hori doesn't like school very much. There are no sports or games, and the teacher is very strict. Sometimes he beats lazy pupils with his cane. But Nakht tells Hori that if he studies well and becomes a scribe, he will be wise, rich and successful.



MAKING PAPYRUS PAPER



Egyptians make many things from papyrus reeds, such as rope, sandals, baskets and boats. They also use papyrus to make paper. The reeds grow in marshy ground. Workers cut them down and take them to a workshop.

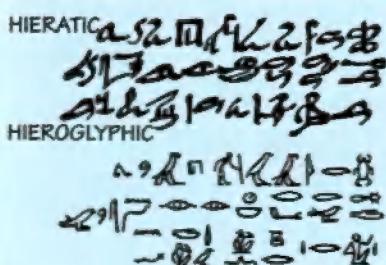


First, the long reeds are chopped into short lengths. Then the green outer skin is peeled away. The yellow-white pith inside is cut lengthways into wafer-thin slices. These small pieces can now be joined together to make a sheet.



Two layers of pith are placed on a flat surface in a criss-cross pattern. A workman places a cloth over them and beats them together into a sheet. When the sheet has dried out, it is polished smooth with a stone.

EGYPTIAN WRITING



WORD SIGNS	
	OLD MAN
	JACKAL
	SUN
	HILL / FOREIGN LANDS

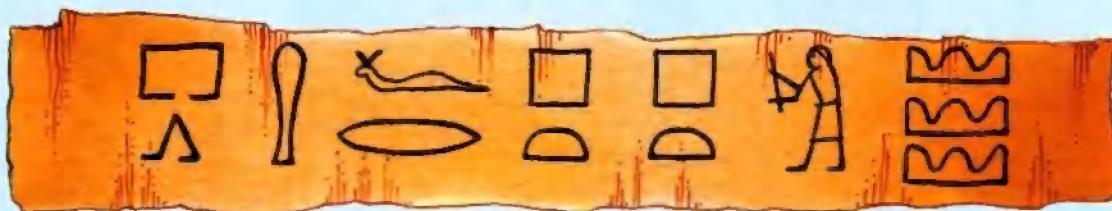
SOUND SIGNS			

The Egyptians have two kinds of writing - hieratic and hieroglyphic. Hieratic is a kind of shorthand, used for day-to-day business. Hieroglyphic writing, the older kind, is used for religious writings and inscriptions on monuments. It is very hard to learn.

Hori will be a temple scribe, so he has to learn hieroglyphic writing. Hieroglyphic writing is already about 2,000 years old. At first it was a picture language with a drawing for each word. So a little drawing of a boat meant 'boat'.

Later, signs were used to stand for sounds, as the letters in an alphabet do. Words could be made up of several different signs. The picture above shows the main sound signs, but other signs were also used for groups of letters.

LEARNING TO READ HIEROGLYPHICS



Hori spends a lot of time at school studying the hieroglyphic symbols, to learn how to read the language. The writing shown above is a mixture of different sound signs and word signs. The Egyptians have no signs for 'a', 'e', 'i', 'o' and 'u'.

Because of this, many words look alike. To tell them apart, they often spell out the sound of a word and then put a special sign, called a determinative, to make the meaning clear. This is what the writing shown above means:



The word for 'house' sounds like the word for 'go forth', so the house symbol is used for both. The walking legs show that here it means 'go forth'.



The club is used to write a sound which means 'majesty'. The snake is the Egyptian letter 'f'. But it can also be used to mean 'his', as it does here.



The mouth is the sound sign for 'r' and, also, the word for 'to'. The stool is the sound sign for 'p', and the loaf of bread is the sign for 't'. Repeated, they spell the word for 'crush'. To make the meaning of the word even clearer, a determinative sign for 'force' - a man with a stick - is added on at the end.



As Egypt is flat, the sign for 'hill' also means 'foreign land'. Here it is plural. So the sentence reads: 'His majesty goes forth to crush foreign lands.'

WORD SIGNS AND DETERMINATIVES



(WALKING LEGS) GO



(MAN WITH A STICK) FORCE



(HILLS) FOREIGN LAND

SOUND SIGNS



(HOUSE) STANDS FOR 'PR'



(CLUB) STANDS FOR 'HM'



(HORNED VIPER) STANDS FOR 'F'



(MOUTH) STANDS FOR 'R'



(STOOLS) STANDS FOR 'P'



(LOAF OF BREAD) STANDS FOR 'T'

A TRIP TO THE PYRAMIDS



The pyramids were built over a thousand years before Nakht was born. They are very old, but they still look magnificent. The most amazing of all is the Great Pyramid, which stands on the edge of the desert, across the Nile from Nakht's home.

During the flood season the waters of the Nile rise close to the Great Pyramid. Sightseers, like Nakht and his children, can sail up and pay their respects to the dead pharaohs, or visit the buildings to marvel at the work of their ancestors.

HOW THE PYRAMIDS WERE BUILT



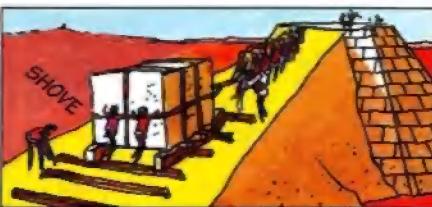
1. One way of cutting stone blocks for a pyramid was to cut notches in solid rock and hammer in wedges of wood. When water was poured on to the wedges, they swelled, splitting off the blocks.



2. Most of the massive blocks used to build the Great Pyramid were quarried in the desert nearby. But the white stone used to form the outer layer was brought across the Nile from quarries on the east bank.



3. The ground where the pyramid was to be built had to be cleared and made level. Workers dug long channels and filled them with water. When the water didn't run to one end, the site was level.



4. The most difficult job of all was raising the heavy stones into place. Most people think the stones were pulled up on a huge earth ramp that was built up higher each time a new layer of stone was added.



5. When the pyramid was finished, the ramp was taken away layer by layer. As the ramp came down, workers put white blocks of limestone over the stepped sides of the pyramid to make them smooth.



6. After many years' work, the pyramid was ready. When the pharaoh died, his coffin was dragged up to the burial chamber inside it. Then the way in to the pyramid was blocked with stone slabs and hidden.

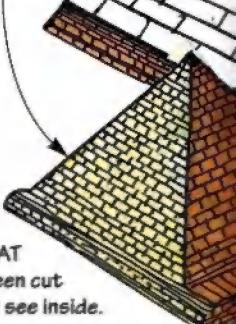
INSIDE THE GREAT PYRAMID

The most impressive of all the pyramids is the Great Pyramid, built for Pharaoh Khufu. It is the biggest stone building ever made. Two million huge blocks were used to construct it.

Khufu had his pyramid made to keep his body safe after his death. He stocked the burial chamber with useful things and treasures to enjoy in his afterlife.

But despite Khufu's efforts, thieves broke into the buildings several years before Nakht's visit. Today, only an empty coffin is left.

SMALL PYRAMIDS for Khufu's chief queens were built alongside the main tomb.



Part of the GREAT PYRAMID has been cut away, so you can see inside.

This CAUSEWAY links the mortuary temple a second temple near the Nile.

PYRAMID OF MENKAURE

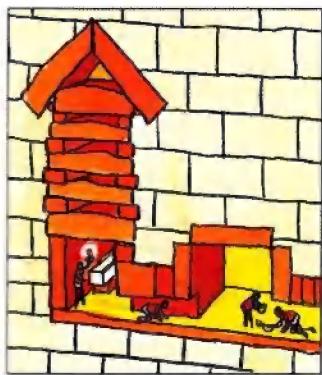
PYRAMID OF KHAFRE

Are you as old as the pyramids, Dad?

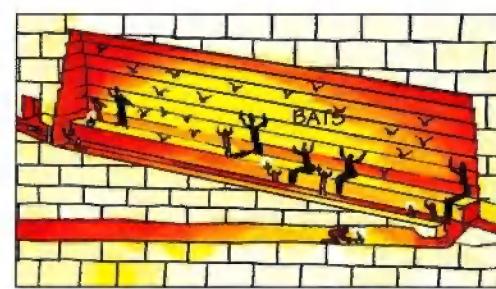
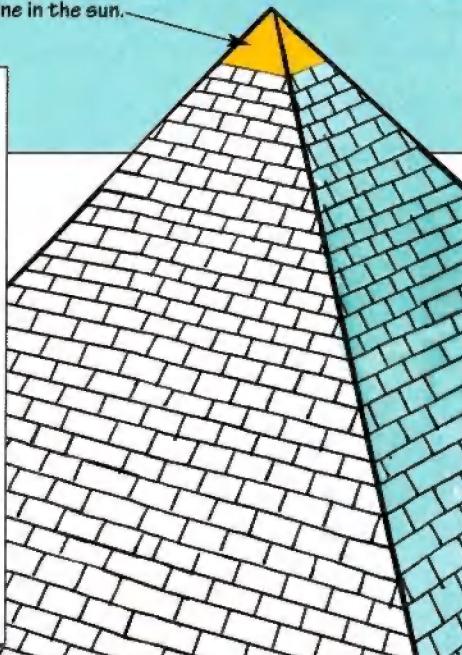
The TOP BLOCK was shaped like a little pyramid. It was cased in gold to make it shine in the sun.

THE GREAT PYRAMID

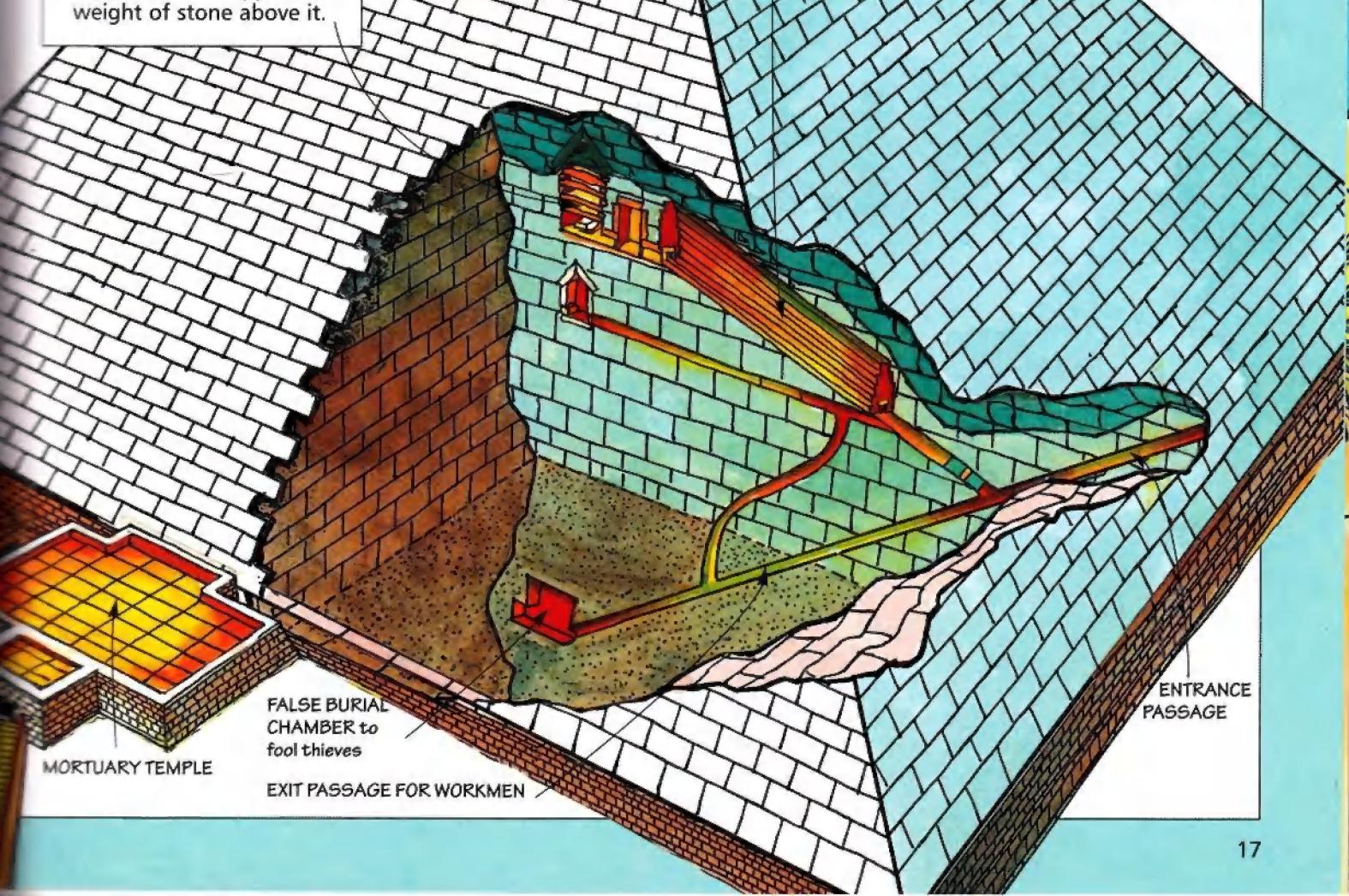
The GREAT SPHINX, a statue of a lion with a man's head, protects Khafre's pyramid.



This is the burial chamber where Khufu's coffin lies. Its roof has five huge stone slabs to support the weight of stone above it.



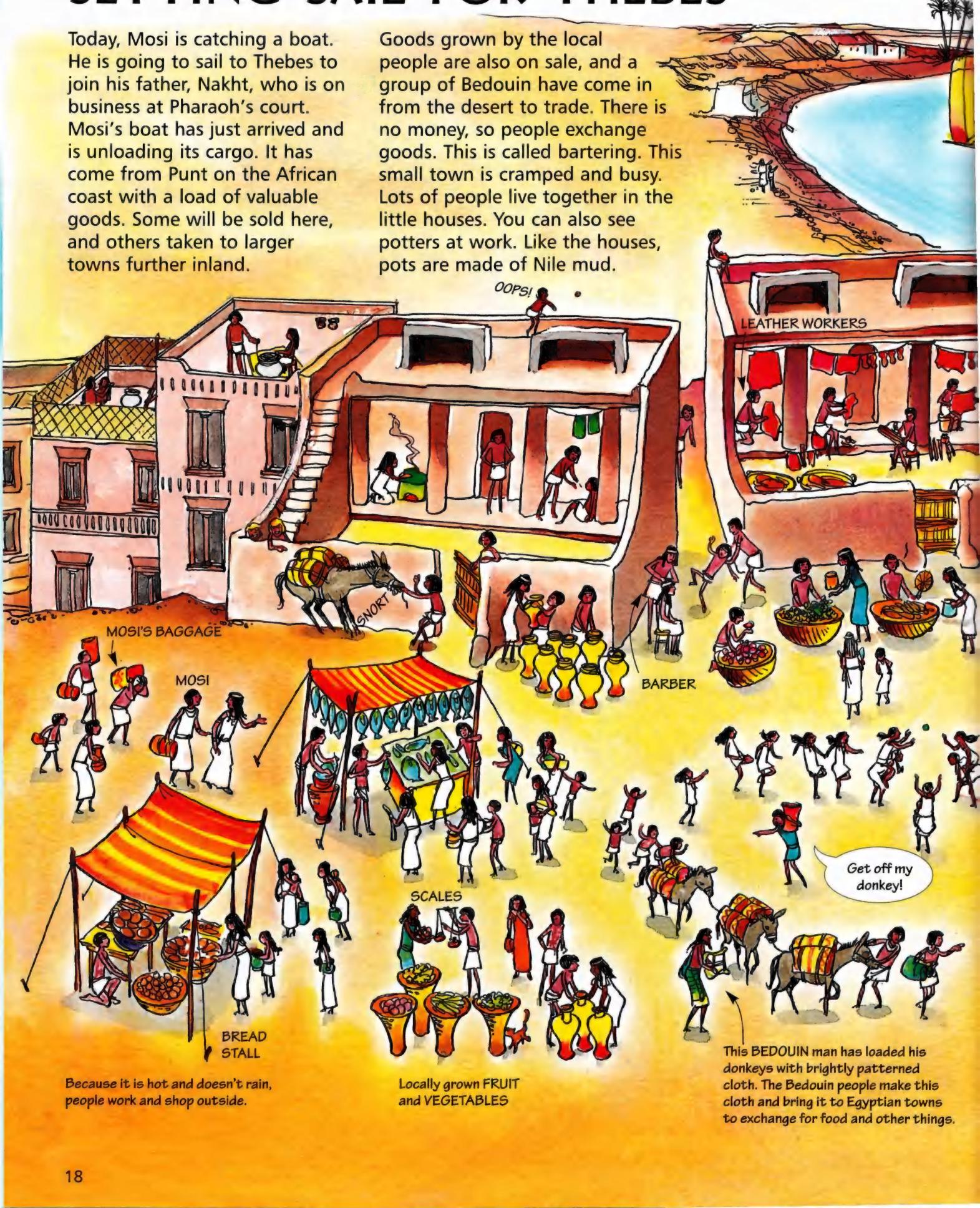
The Grand Gallery has a very high roof. Huge stone slabs were stored on platforms under the roof. After the burial, workers stayed inside and slid the slabs down to block the entrance. Then they left through the small passage below.



SETTING SAIL FOR THEBES

Today, Mosi is catching a boat. He is going to sail to Thebes to join his father, Nakht, who is on business at Pharaoh's court. Mosi's boat has just arrived and is unloading its cargo. It has come from Punt on the African coast with a load of valuable goods. Some will be sold here, and others taken to larger towns further inland.

Goods grown by the local people are also on sale, and a group of Bedouin have come in from the desert to trade. There is no money, so people exchange goods. This is called bartering. This small town is cramped and busy. Lots of people live together in the little houses. You can also see potters at work. Like the houses, pots are made of Nile mud.



Exporting GRAIN
and PAPYRUS



AT PHARAOH'S COURT

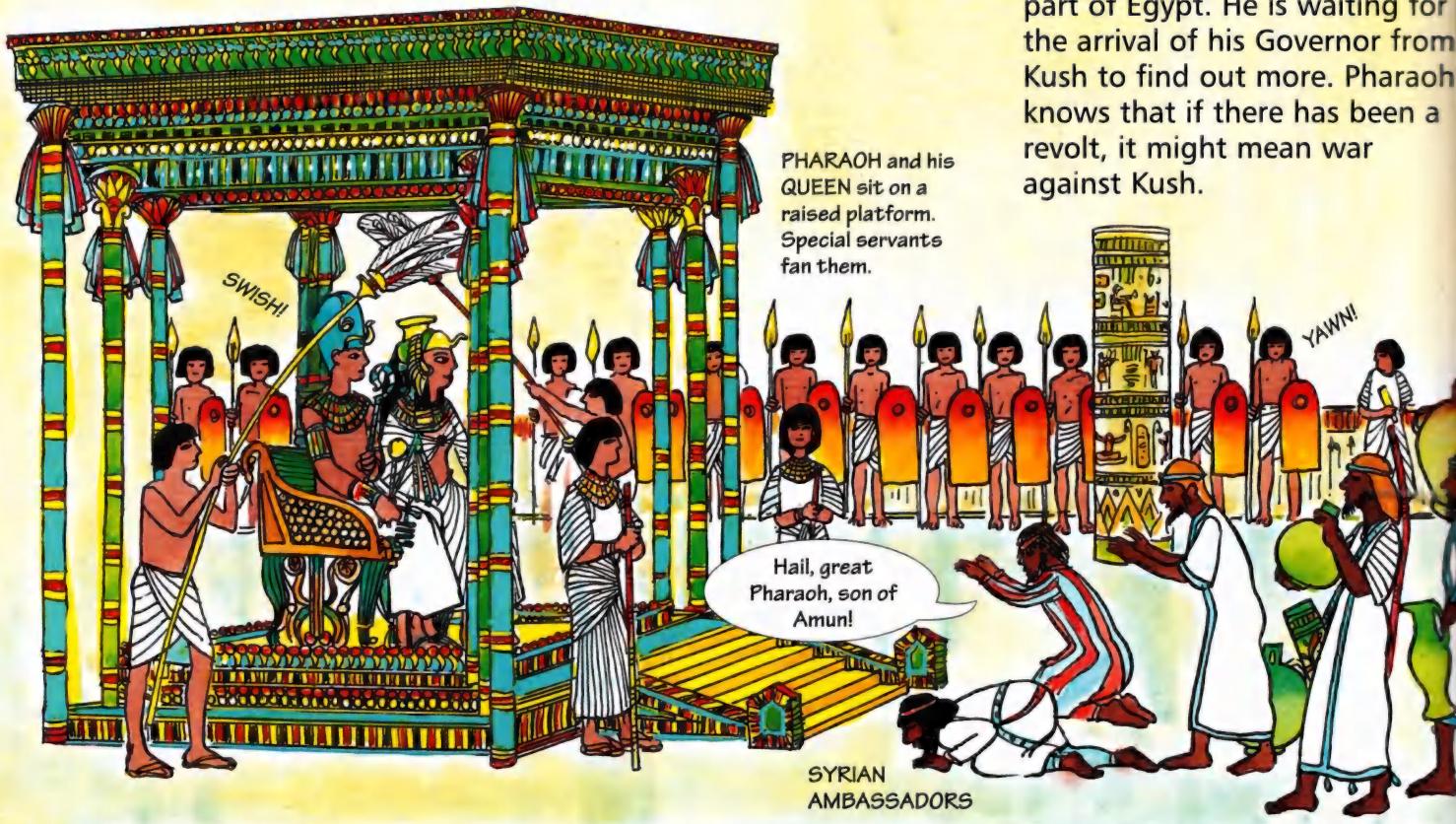
Nakht is attending a reception at Pharaoh's palace in Thebes. Ambassadors have come from Syria, a mountainous land north-east of Egypt. Syria was conquered by a previous pharaoh some time ago, so the Syrians have to bring gifts to the Egyptians. Some of these gifts will be sent to the temple where Nakht works, to please the god Ptah.

One of the gifts is a bear for Pharaoh's zoo. The Syrians also bring royal children who will stay at the Egyptian court. They will be treated well, but they are hostages who will be killed if their parents rebel.

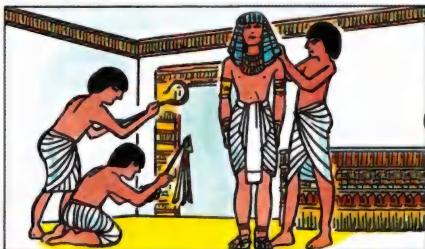
Like all Egyptians, Nakht believes that Pharaoh is the son of the god Amun and that his word is law.

The young pharaoh sits with his wife in the audience hall. He is wearing his blue war crown because the Syrians are paying a tribute won through war. He behaves with great dignity and ceremony. But secretly he is bored of the Syrians' flattery.

Pharaoh has heard news of a revolt in Kush, in the southern part of Egypt. He is waiting for the arrival of his Governor from Kush to find out more. Pharaoh knows that if there has been a revolt, it might mean war against Kush.



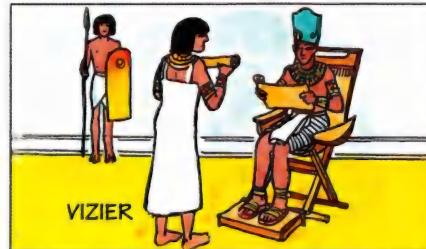
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PHARAOH



Pharaoh is dressed by his servants. With great care, they give him his flail and crook, and a headdress called a Nemes. All these are symbols of his royalty.



Every morning in the temple, Pharaoh burns incense over a gift that has been offered to Amun. He asks the god to bring Egypt good luck in the coming day.



Much of the day is taken up with the business of governing the country. Pharaoh reads letters and consults his advisors. The Vizier keeps him informed.

THE CROWNS OF EGYPT



Pharaoh wears different crowns for different occasions. This is the Khepresh, or war-crown.



The White Crown is the crown of southern Egypt. The Red Crown is the crown of the Delta region.



As ruler of all Egypt, Pharaoh usually wears the Double Crown, which unites the Red and White.



The elaborate, top-heavy Hemhemet crown is only ever worn for ceremonies at the temple.



In the afternoon, Pharaoh goes to watch work on a temple he is having built for himself. Workers are hauling huge stone blocks into place up a steep ramp.



Pharaoh loves hunting in the desert, but it can be dangerous. The fiercest game are lions. In ten years Pharaoh has killed more than 100 lions.



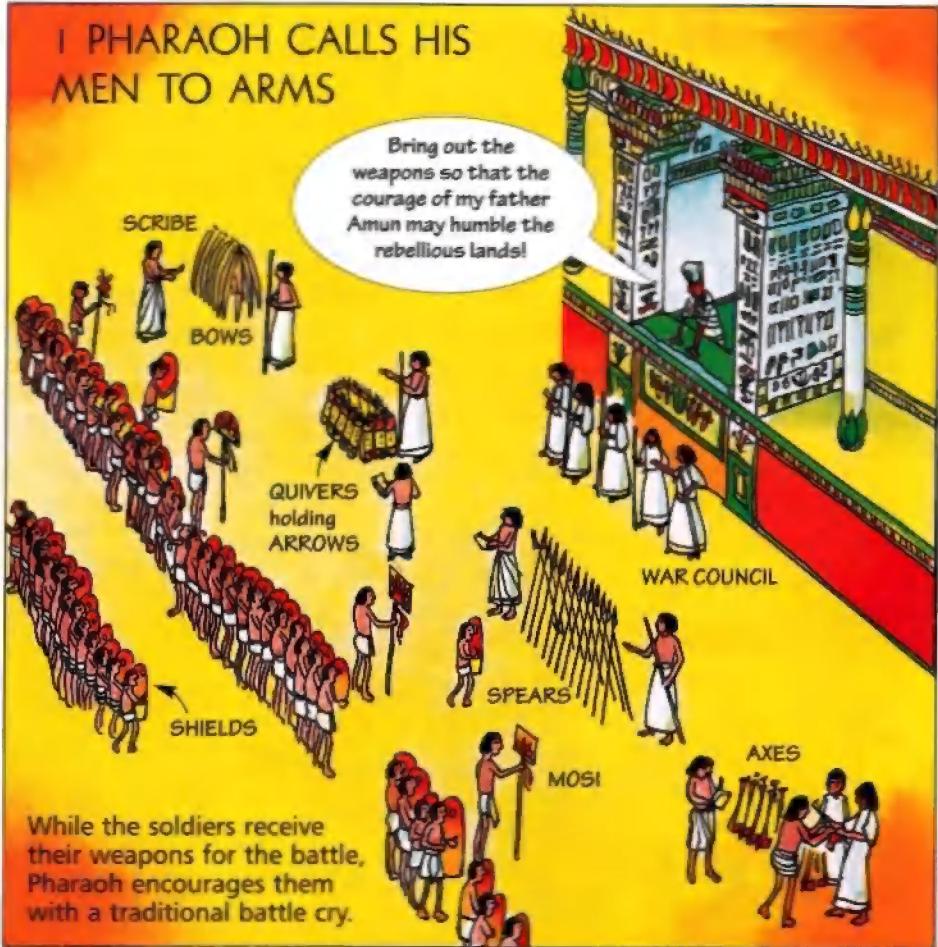
Back in the palace, Pharaoh relaxes and plays a game of Senet with his queen. In the evening, there is dinner and dancing. Then Pharaoh goes to bed for a well-earned rest.

BATTLE!

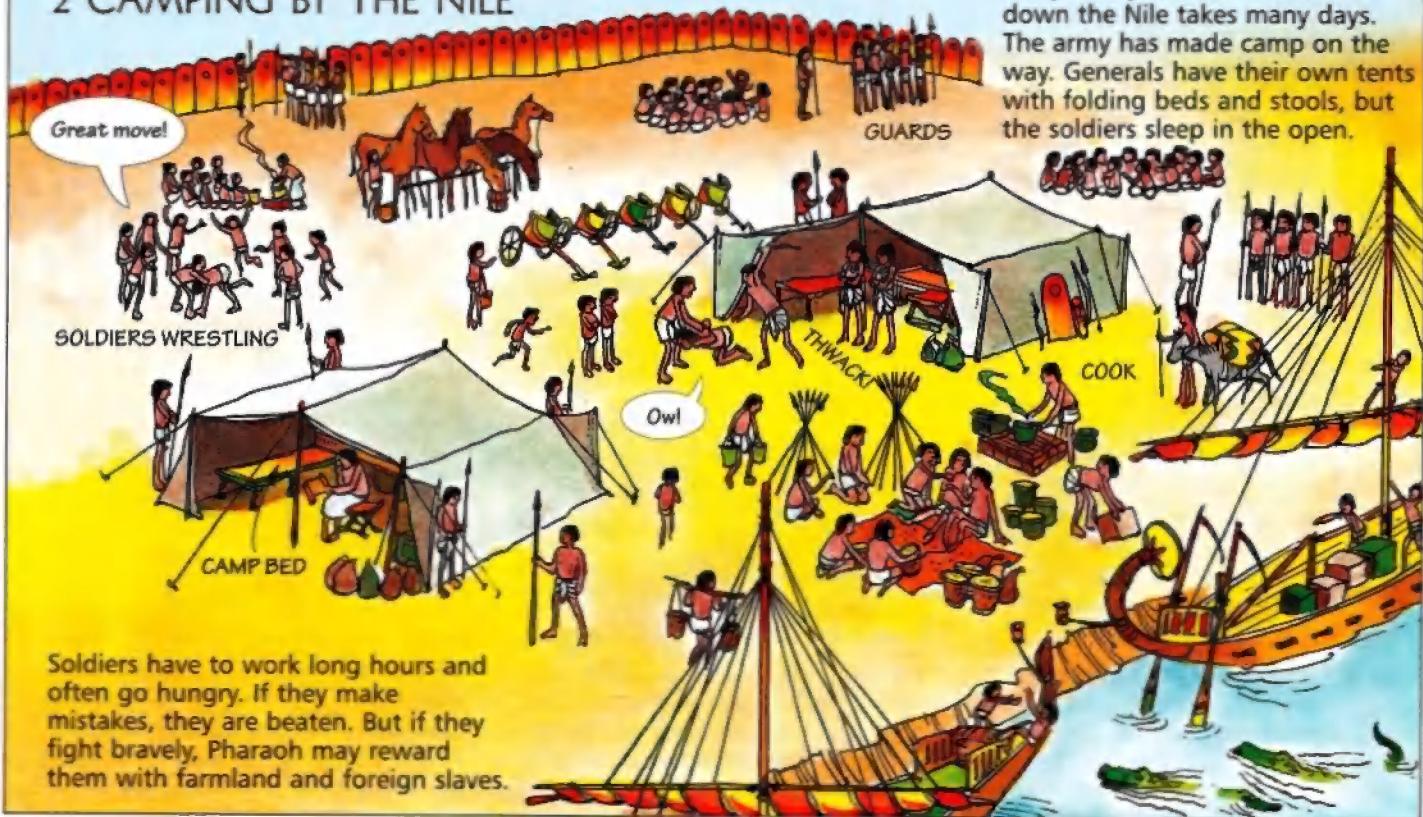
The news from Kush is bad. Tribesmen who live in the far south of the country have attacked the Egyptian government officials. Pharaoh decides to send soldiers to punish them.

An expedition is organized quickly. Egypt has an army of trained soldiers. The most highly skilled are the charioteers, who provide their own chariots. The navy will help to transport the troops down the Nile to Kush.

One of the soldiers joining this expedition is Nakht's son, Mosi. Although he is a new recruit, he has already been made a standard-bearer. He has to carry the banner for his division, keep the soldiers together and pass on orders from commanders.



2 CAMPING BY THE NILE

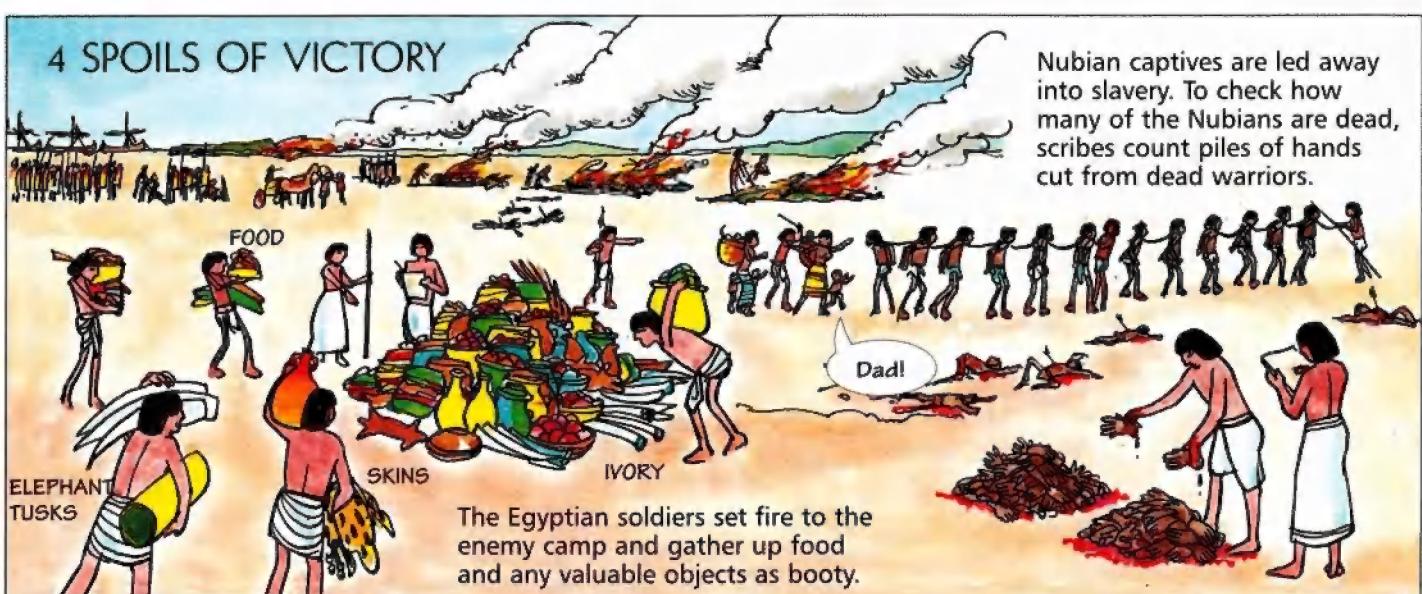


3 ATTACK!



Archers begin the attack with a hail of arrows, then archers in chariots and foot soldiers rush forwards. The people of Kush are famous warriors, but they are no match for the disciplined Egyptian troops.

4 SPOILS OF VICTORY



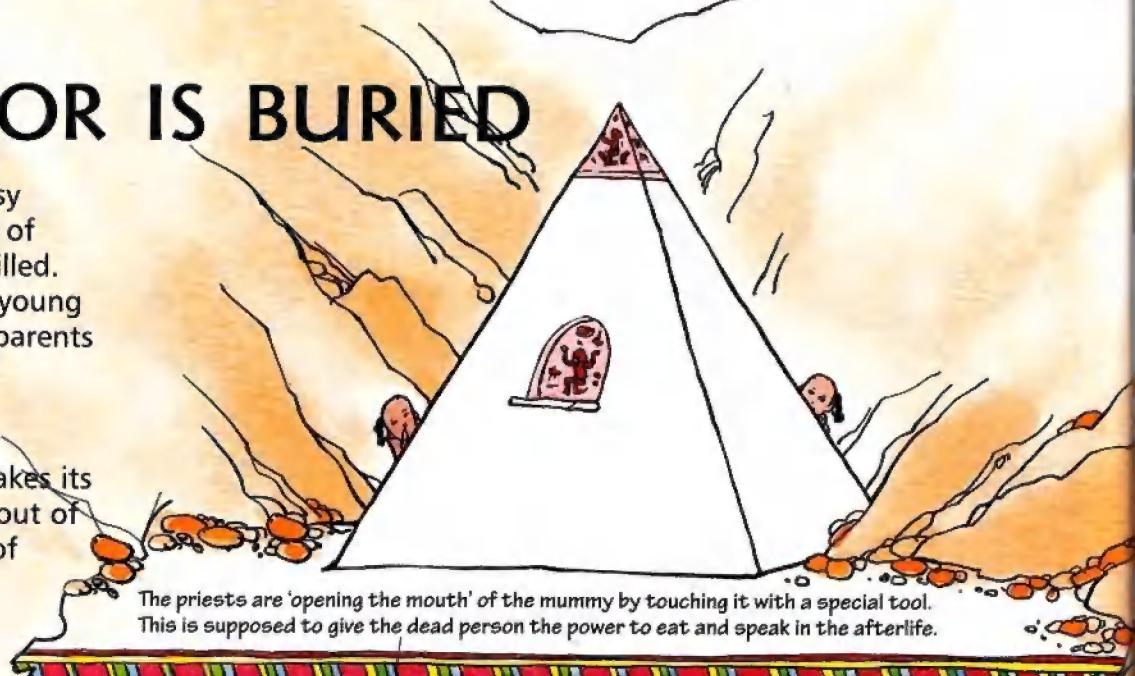
Nubian captives are led away into slavery. To check how many of the Nubians are dead, scribes count piles of hands cut from dead warriors.

The Egyptian soldiers set fire to the enemy camp and gather up food and any valuable objects as booty.

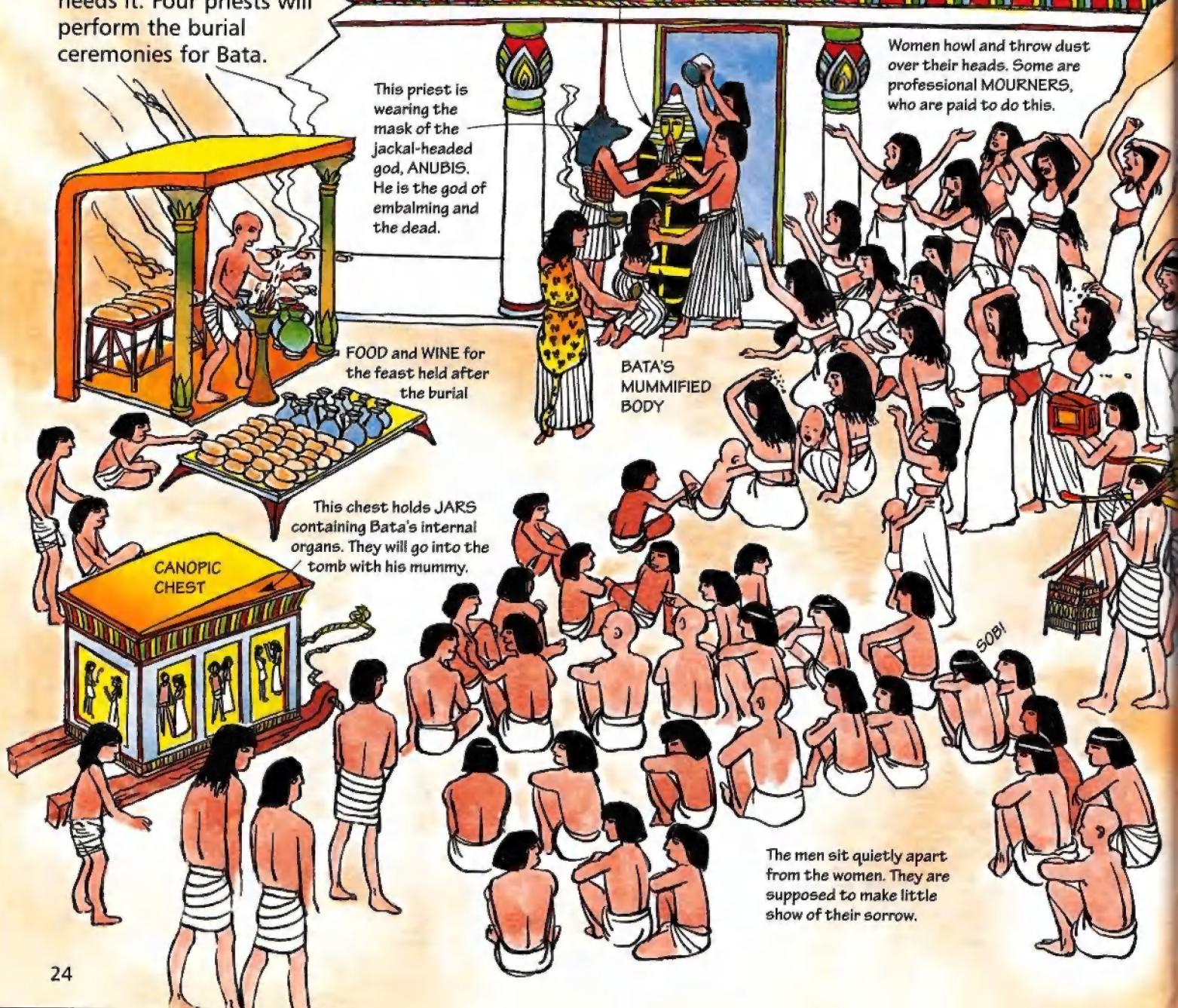
A WARRIOR IS BURIED

The Egyptians won an easy victory in Kush, but some of their own soldiers were killed. One was Mosi's friend, a young man named Bata. Bata's parents have brought his body to Thebes for burial.

The funeral procession makes its way to a tomb hollowed out of a cliff, on the west bank of the Nile. Bata's father prepared this tomb for himself, but now Bata needs it. Four priests will perform the burial ceremonies for Bata.



The priests are 'opening the mouth' of the mummy by touching it with a special tool. This is supposed to give the dead person the power to eat and speak in the afterlife.



This priest is wearing the mask of the jackal-headed god, ANUBIS. He is the god of embalming and the dead.

FOOD and WINE for the feast held after the burial

BATA'S MUMMIFIED BODY

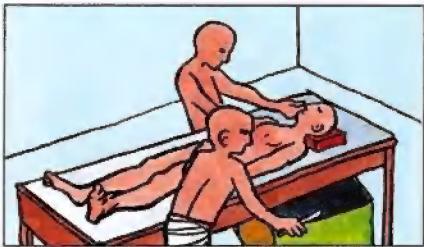
Women howl and throw dust over their heads. Some are professional MOURNERS, who are paid to do this.

This chest holds JARS containing Bata's internal organs. They will go into the tomb with his mummy.

CANOPIC CHEST

The men sit quietly apart from the women. They are supposed to make little show of their sorrow.

PREPARING BATA FOR BURIAL



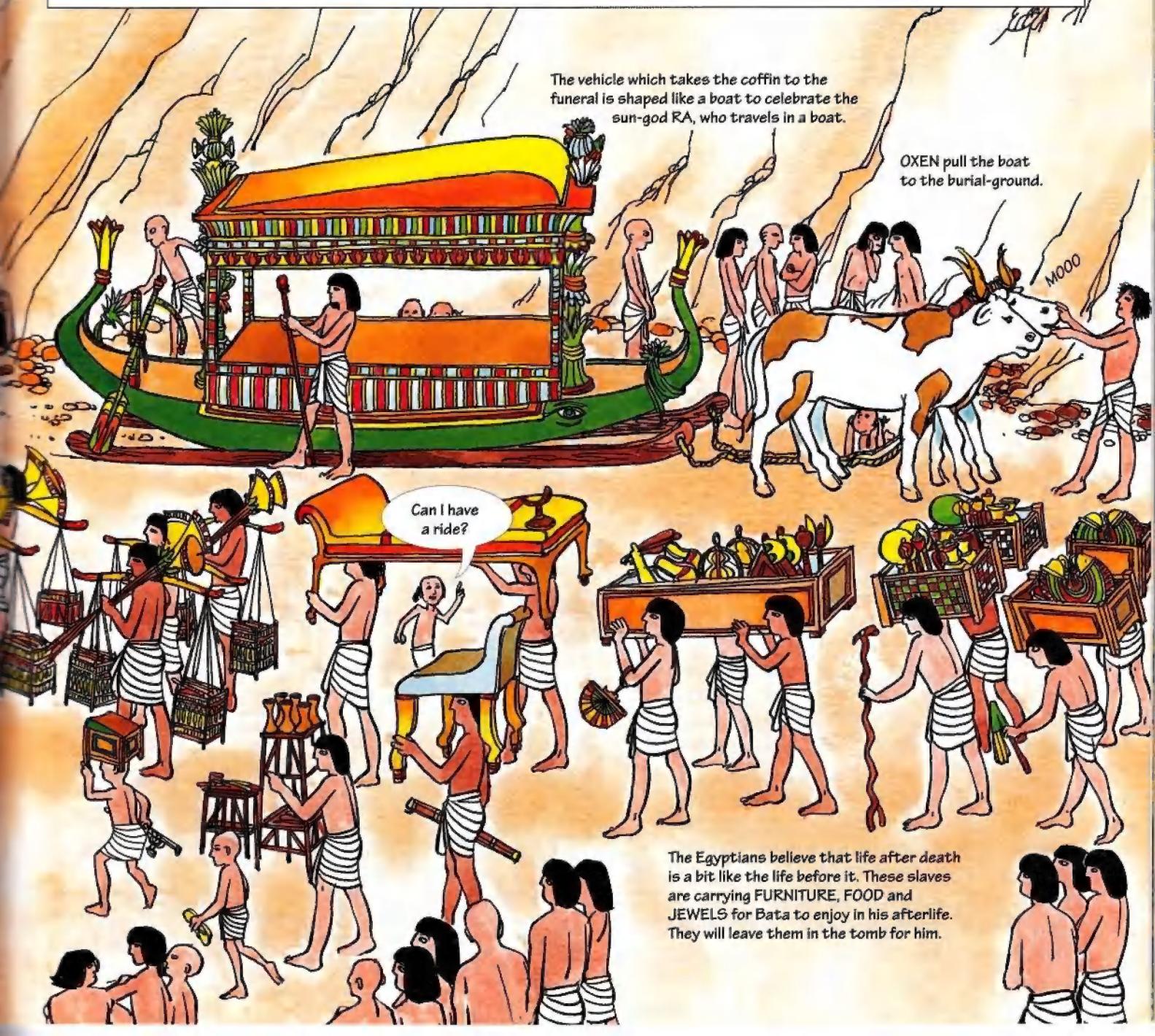
The Egyptians think it is important to preserve the bodies of the dead. They have special ways of embalming them through a process called mummification. First the internal organs are removed.



Next the body is covered in a kind of salt called natron to dry it out. Bags of natron are packed around the head and inside the body. Then the body is left for many days until it has dried out.



Next the body is covered with sweet-smelling oils to preserve it. It is wrapped in linen strips with charms tucked into the folds, and a mask is put over the face. The body is then put into a coffin for burial.



The Egyptians believe that life after death is a bit like the life before it. These slaves are carrying FURNITURE, FOOD and JEWELS for Bata to enjoy in his afterlife. They will leave them in the tomb for him.

THE WORLD OF THE SPIRITS

All Egyptians hope for a life after death in which they will work, eat and drink just as they did on earth. Their tombs are their homes for the afterlife, so wealthy people like Bata's parents take great care preparing their tombs.

They put all kinds of furniture and household comforts in to make the dead person comfortable, and paint piles of food on the tomb walls, so that they will not be hungry. Nakht is telling his children all about Bata's afterlife.



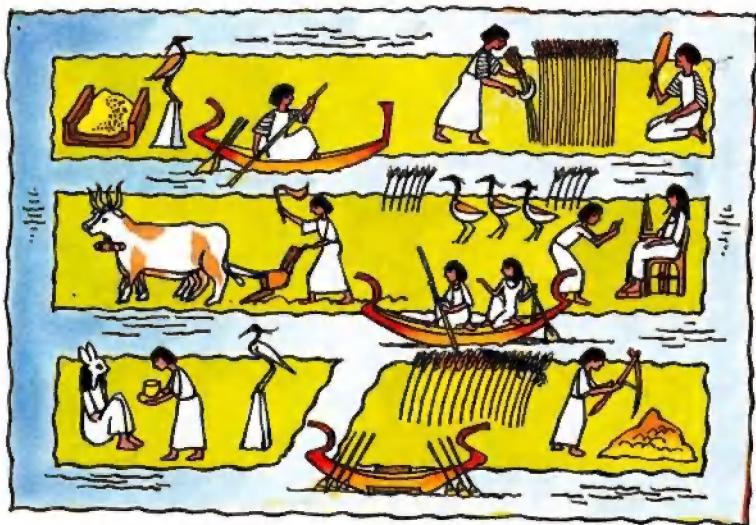
Egyptians believe that each day the sun travels across the sky in a boat guided by Ra, the falcon-headed god of the sun. At night, Ra gets into another boat to sail with the sun through the world of the spirits.



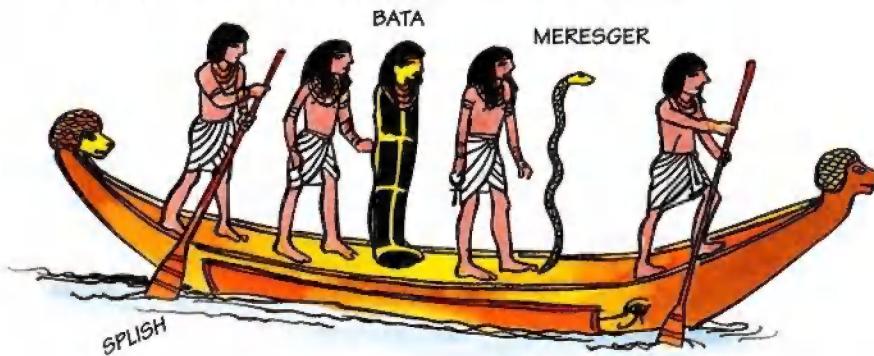
Nakht explains to his children that when Bata died, his soul left his body. It took the shape of a bird. During the daytime, it flies back to the land of the living to visit the places Bata knew when he was alive.

THE FIELDS OF REEDS

Nakht tells his children that wealthy Egyptians like Bata have special books, called Books of the Dead, put into their tombs. The books contain spells to help them in the afterlife, and drawings of the Fields of Reeds - the Egyptian heaven. The drawings show a peaceful land of fields, marshes and canals. After death, good dead people live there among the gods. They also have to work in the fields. In order to avoid working, rich Egyptians put small statues of servants, called ushabtis, in their tombs. They believe these servants will do the work for them.



1 BATA'S TRIP TO THE UNDERWORLD



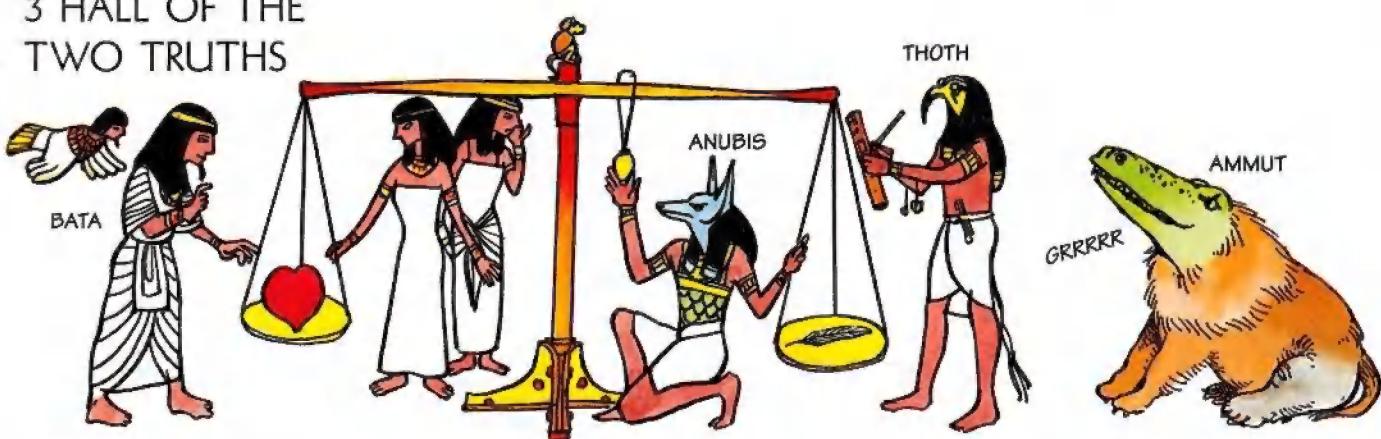
"Listen carefully, my children", Nakht continues. "Before he can live again, Bata must face a frightening ordeal. He must stand trial before Osiris, Lord of the Underworld. Only good people pass the test set by Osiris: the rest face a most terrible fate."

2 THE GATEWAY



To reach Osiris, Bata has to pass many gateways. Each one is guarded by animal-headed gods armed with knives or holding a feather. This feather represents truth. To pass through, Bata must recite magic words from his Book of the Dead."

3 HALL OF THE TWO TRUTHS



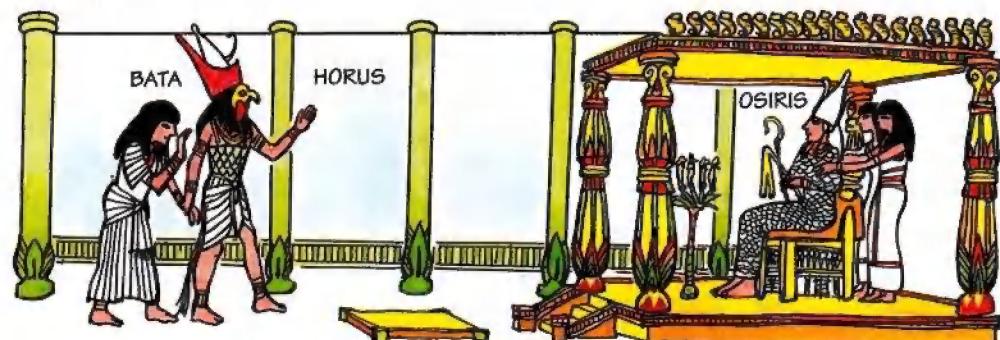
"Bata will meet Osiris in the judgement hall, called the Hall of the Two Truths. In front of Osiris himself and 42 judges, Bata must swear that he has not done wrong in his life.

The jackal-headed god Anubis will test Bata's claim by placing Bata's heart on a set of scales. On the other side of the scales, he places a feather of truth.

If Bata's heart is heavier than the feather, he has lied, and he will be eaten by a beast called Ammut, or the Devourer. Ammut is part lion, part crocodile and part hippo."

4 THE THRONE OF OSIRIS

"Thoth, the ibis-headed scribe of the gods, will note down the result of the trial. But we know, my children, that Bata was a good man, so Horus the falcon-headed god will take him to the throne of Osiris, to worship him. Then Bata's new life will begin in the Fields of Reeds."

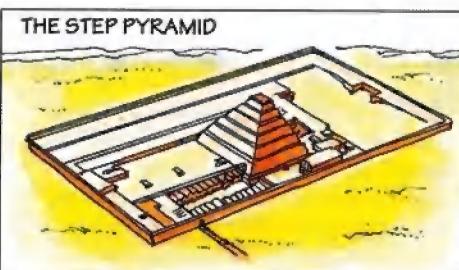


THE STORY OF THE PHARAOHS

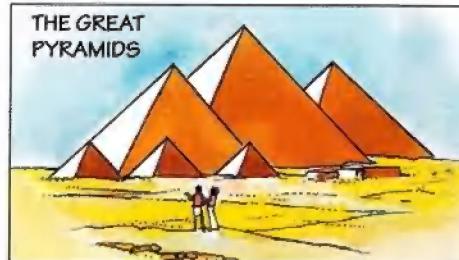
The story begins in about 3100BC (3,100 years before Jesus was born). At this time Egypt was split into two, Upper Egypt to the south and Lower Egypt to the north. Then Menes, a king from the south, conquered the north and built a new capital city at Memphis. He was the first of the pharaohs.



The first pyramid was built about 400 years later, as a tomb for Pharaoh Djoser. Before this, pharaohs had been buried in flat, mud brick tombs called mastabas. Djoser's tomb looked like six stone mastabas piled on top of each other. It is known as the Step Pyramid.



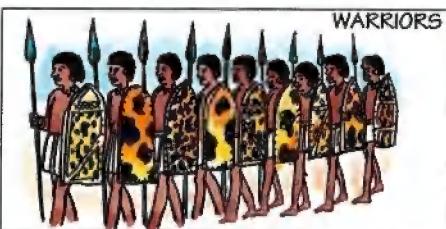
All the great pyramids were built in the next 400 years. Some early ones were failures. Pharaoh Seneferu's pyramid at Dashur is known as the Bent Pyramid, as the weight of its own stones squashed it. But when things went right, the results were amazing. The two pyramids built at Giza, for Khufu and his son Khafre, were the biggest of all. They are still famous all over the world.



The time when the pyramids were built is known as the Old Kingdom. It was an age of peace and security. The peasants farmed the land, the priests prayed to the gods. The rich nobles were happy serving the pharaoh, looking after their land, and hunting for pleasure.

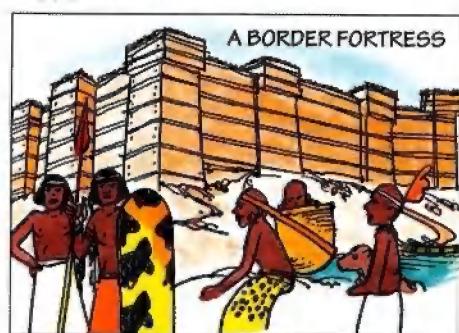


It was the nobles who finally brought the Old Kingdom to an end. They grew so powerful that they no longer respected the pharaohs at all. The country was split. Two local rulers set up as rival kings, one in the south and one in the north. Others had their own small territories.

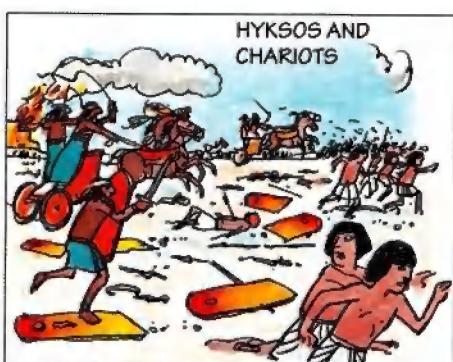


This time of troubles lasted for more than 100 years. It came to an end when a new family from Thebes managed to reunite the country. The power of the nobles was checked and peace was restored once more. This new period of calm and prosperity is known as the Middle Kingdom.

The Middle Kingdom was the second great age of Egypt. It was a time of big projects, like the draining of the marshy Faiyum. Many of the finest hieroglyphic writings were composed. Trading ships sailed the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Great chains of fortresses were built to protect Egypt's borders.



After two and a half centuries of peaceful Egyptian rule, a new force emerged in the region. A group of foreigners from the east, known by the Egyptians as Hyksos, came to power and took over much of Egypt. They brought with them new and powerful weapons, including horse-drawn war chariots.



But the Hyksos never took over completely. After a century, the rulers of Upper Egypt managed to drive them out by using their own weapons against them. Thebes became the capital of a reunited Egypt. Inside Egypt, order was restored.

During the first century of the New Kingdom, Egypt had something it had never had before: a powerful woman ruler, Hatshepsut. At first she ruled Egypt on behalf of her stepson, Tuthmosis II, who was very young. But she soon took all the power of a pharaoh for herself. She ruled the country well for 20 years, and built an amazing temple as a monument to herself. It still exists at Deir el Bahri.

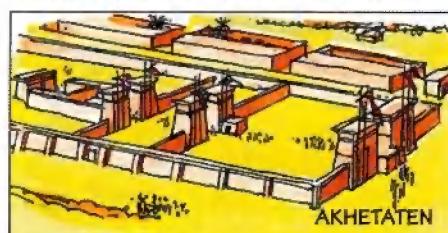


When Tuthmosis II finally took power, the first thing he did was to try to wipe out every trace of the woman who had usurped his powers. Then he set out to attack Egypt's enemies abroad. In 17 campaigns he built a powerful empire stretching from Syria all the way to Sudan.



The empire Tuthmosis II built lasted until the end of the long reign of his great-grandson, Amenhotep III. But things began to fall apart under the next pharaoh, who took the name Akhenaten. He was the most revolutionary pharaoh Egypt ever had. He abandoned Thebes and built a new capital city, Akhetaten, in the desert.

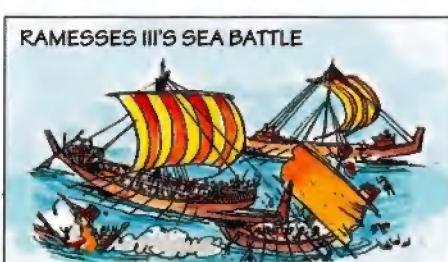
Above all, he tried to overthrow the old gods of Egypt, and to replace them with one god, the sun's disk, known as the Aten.



But all his efforts were in vain. The religious revolution ended during the reign of the next pharaoh, Tutankhamun. He allowed the Egyptians to worship Amun and the other gods again. Tutankhamun died at the age of 20, but other pharaohs carried on his work, and tried to get rid of the memory of Akhenaten.

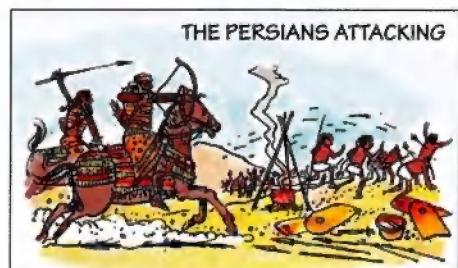


In the time since Amenhotep III's reign, Egypt's enemies abroad had grown stronger. The last rulers of the New Kingdom struggled to keep them in check. New powers and peoples challenged the pharaoh's armies. The Hittites, a people from what is now Turkey, signed a peace treaty with Ramesses (or Ramses) II after a long war, and Ramesses III finally defeated the Sea Peoples of the Mediterranean in a sea battle.



After the death of Ramesses III, Egypt's great days were over. It gradually grew weaker as waves of invaders attacked. The Nubians, who had been subjects of the Egyptians for more than a thousand years, were the first to come. Then the Assyrians sacked Thebes in 661 BC.

Egypt's next conquerors were the Persians. They were so hated that when the Greek leader Alexander the Great invaded Egypt to defeat them, he was welcomed as a hero.



After Alexander died, one of his generals, Ptolemy, took power. His family ruled Egypt for the next 300 years. The last Ptolemy - and the last pharaoh - was the famous Cleopatra. She decided to kill herself with the venom of a snake, rather than surrender to the Roman ruler Octavian. But, after this, Egypt was taken over as a province of the Roman empire.



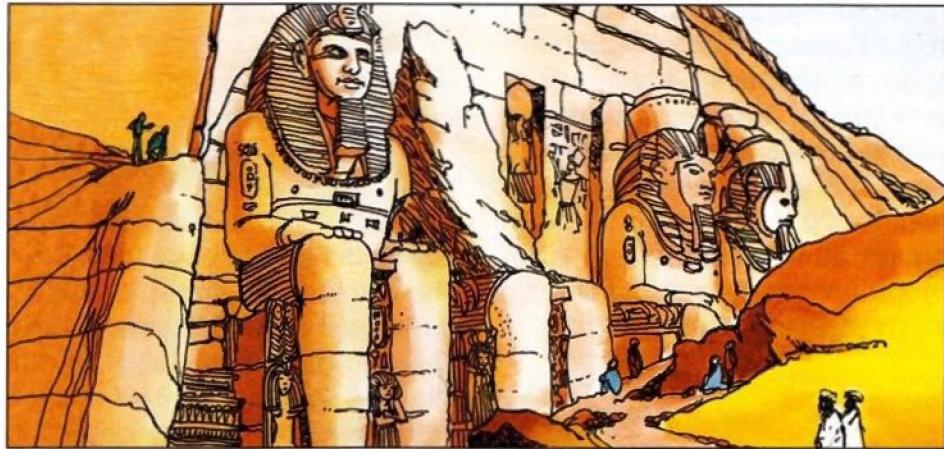
The ancient Egyptian way of life gradually disappeared. Even the temples fell into decay. But its heritage did not die. It has given many useful things to the world, from building and farming to writing and science.

HOW WE KNOW ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT

After Egypt became a part of the Roman empire in 30BC, its old way of life came to an end. The people began to worship new gods, and the secrets of hieroglyphic writing were forgotten. Over the centuries, the old temples and palaces became ruins and were covered with sand and rubble.

In the 18th century AD, European scholars began to take an interest in Egypt's past. They explored the ruined buildings, and eventually worked out how to read hieroglyphics again. Then archaeologists began to dig up tombs and temples, and found wall paintings, scrolls and things used in everyday life.

All these discoveries have helped to build up a picture of how the ancient Egyptians lived. The picture is still not complete, but each new find helps to fill in the gaps.



This is what the temple of Abu Simbel looked like 150 years ago. The four great statues of Ramesses II, for whom it was built, were half

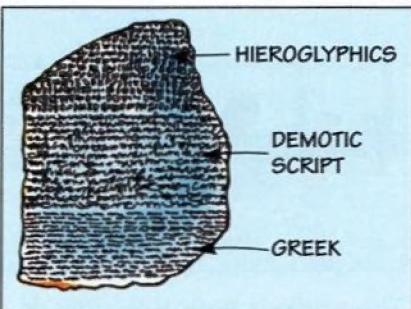
covered in sand. Many other famous Egyptian monuments were completely hidden until archaeologists uncovered them.



The first explorers were only interested in collecting spectacular finds. This huge sculpture of Ramesses II was taken to Europe.

Early archaeologists did a lot of damage in their search for treasures. Some even used battering rams on sealed tombs.

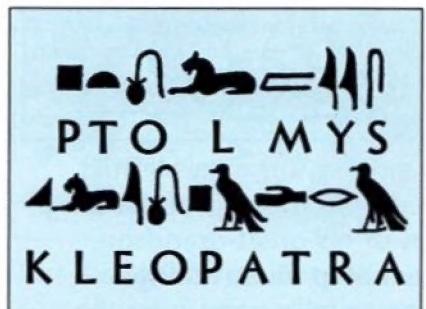
HOW THE HIEROGLYPHIC CODE WAS CRACKED



In 1799 a stone was found near Rosetta in the Delta. A message was written on it three times, in Greek and in two Egyptian scripts, Demotic and Hieroglyphic. This proved to be a vital clue.



A French scholar named Jean-François Champollion compared the hieroglyphs with the Greek part, which he understood. He worked for 14 years before he found out what anything meant.



Finally he recognized 'Ptolemy', a name of several pharaohs. He compared it with the name 'Cleopatra', which was carved on an obelisk, and was able to match up the symbols for 'p', 'l' and 'o'.

TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

The greatest discovery in the history of Egyptian archaeology was finding the tomb of the boy pharaoh, Tutankhamun. It was intact when it was discovered, as it had not been looted by grave robbers. It was also a triumph for a new, more careful kind of archaeology.

The tomb was found by a patient and determined English archaeologist named Howard Carter. From what he knew about the royal tombs, he was sure that there must still be one undiscovered one in the Valley of the Kings. With the help of money given by Lord Carnarvon, a wealthy nobleman, he began his search.

He worked for five years without finding anything. Lord Carnarvon was ready to give up. But Carter persuaded him to give the money for one last season's digging.



The discovery of the steps leading down to Tutankhamun's tomb

This time, after only four days, Carter's men came across steps leading down into the ground. Carter guessed at once that they had found what they had been looking for. Three weeks after the first step was found, Carter and his men uncovered the blocked entrance to Tutankhamun's tomb.

Carter did not rush in. He carefully made a small hole in the wall and looked inside. Holding up a candle, he peered into the darkness. "Can you see anything?", Lord Carnarvon asked. "Yes," Carter replied, "wonderful things". He saw the glint of gold everywhere.



Carter looking into the first chamber of the tomb

The room was full of strange, precious objects heaped up. One of the first things he saw was a golden couch, shaped like a cow. But still Carter did not rush. He spent three years recording and removing over 2,000 objects found in the four rooms of the tomb.

Finally, he opened the most magnificent of all the finds - the stone sarcophagus. Inside were three coffins, the first two made of gilded wood and the third of solid gold. Inside this was the mummy of Tutankhamun, its face covered with a mask of gold and precious stones.

TUTANKHAMUN'S MASK



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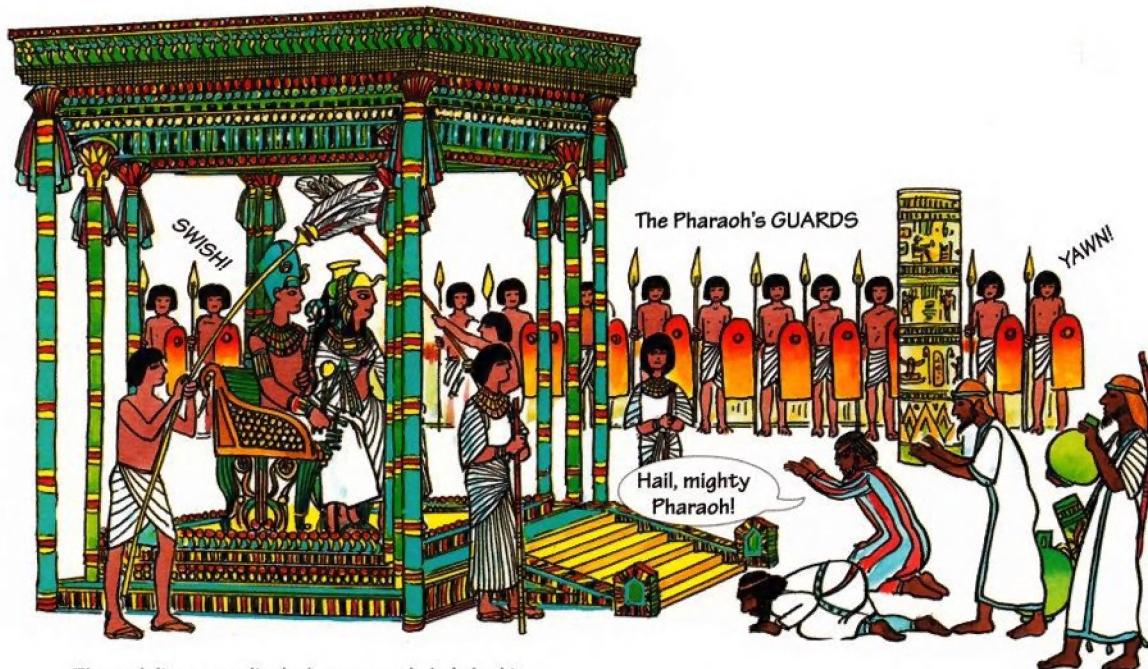
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